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Saturday November 23 1996

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,718


**Britain's gun lovers set their sights overseas**

## Targeting France

The... 

**Joanna Coles meets Lucy Lambton**

## Joyfully banking

... 

**Sport**

## Cork pulls out of the England tour

The Week page 20

### Fallen American football star takes the stand



OJ Simpson arrives at court in Santa Monica, California, yesterday to testify at the civil trial. PHOTOGRAPH: MARK TERPIL

## OJ admits 'getting physical'

Simpson testifies under oath for the first time as America relives its trial of the century

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

FOR the first time under oath and in public court, O. J. Simpson yesterday began giving his version of what happened on the Sunday night in 1994 when his ex-wife and a friend were brutally murdered at her house in Los Angeles.

Hard questioning began immediately when Daniel Petrocelli — lead counsel for the plaintiffs — displayed photographs on a screen of Nicole Brown Simpson's battered face after a previous incident on New Year's Day, 1989. Mr Simpson denied beating her and repeated "I don't know" when asked how she received a cut lip, a bruised forehead and a hand-print on her neck.

Mr Petrocelli focused on a history of clashes between Mr Simpson and his wife.

Initially, Mr Simpson said: "Like any long relationship, there were a few bad times."

"And it was a passionate relationship at times, yes?"

"Yes."

"And it was a problem relationship at times?" Mr Simpson strongly denied this.



Nicole Brown Simpson: evidence of prior beatings

At one point he admitted "getting physical", saying: "I pushed her out the door if that's what you mean." He later said he had "wrestled her out of the room" and had her "in a head lock".

After the 1989 episode, in which a policeman saw Mrs Simpson running from the house wearing only a bra and sweatpants, shouting "He's going to kill me", Mr Simpson did not contest a spousal abuse charge. Yesterday in court, however, he accused his late wife of lying when she said he beat her.

The legendary football star was one of the most anticipated witnesses in United States legal history. He was testifying in Santa Monica, California, in a civil trial on charges of wrongful death.

It was brought by the families of Nicole Brown Simpson, aged 36, and Ronald Goldman, aged 26, a waiter friend visiting her on June 12 1994. The couple were stabbed repeatedly and had their throats cut.

At stake was not just Mr Simpson's innocence but his fortune. He owns a Los Angeles mansion valued at \$8 million (\$3.2 million). He could also forfeit a huge sum in damages — although Fred Goldman, the father of Ronald and a prosperous advertising executive, insists he is not suing for the money.

Mr Simpson, aged 49, was the 40th witness on the 19th day of a trial that has been a model, lawyers say, for what should have happened in last year's nine-month criminal trial, which was often mired in technicalities.

The civil trial differs — not least in the absence of television cameras. The 12 — mainly white — jurors need only a 93 verdict. Instead of a finding "beyond a reasonable doubt", they must weigh the "preponderance" of evidence. The defendant cannot be found guilty, only "liable".

Mr Simpson did not testify

In last year's criminal trial for murder acquitted him in a case. He cannot do so in the civil trial without forfeiting the case.

In October 1995 a majority black jury acquitted him in a case. He cannot do so in the civil trial without forfeiting the case.

Still ostracised from the opulent golf and country-club life he spent largely among white people, Mr Simpson has tried to plead his innocence, often against the advice of his lawyers. He has given television interviews, written a book called I Want to Tell You, made a video, and addressed the Oxford Union.

Yet nothing has shaken the conviction of an estimated 85 per cent of whites that he is guilty of the two murders. Blacks, however, now seem less sure of his innocence.

Meanwhile, in another hearing in Orange county, Mrs Simpson's mother and father are seeking to keep custody of the couple's two children, Sydney, aged 11, and Justin, aged eight, for whom they have cared since the murders. They argue that Mr Simpson's notoriety could damage the chances of a normal upbringing.

Ghosts to lay to rest, page 5

# Clarke cuts deep to fund lower taxes

Savings drive prunes roads and housing

David Hencke, Larry Elliott and Michael White

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will launch a crackdown on benefit fraud as the centrepiece of a £2 billion package of spending cuts in Tuesday's Budget designed to pay for a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax.

Mr Clarke will also target motorists and tenants, and has decided to concentrate increases in public spending on two of the key election battle-grounds — education and health.

In what will be presented as a prudent package aimed at keeping interest rates down in the run-up to polling day, the Chancellor will announce a "pend to save" initiative involving big increases in fraud staff to fight benefit scroungers and tax dodgers.

But the Chancellor will attempt to make a clear distinction between the Government's assault on traiders and the plight of the hard-working low-paid by supplementing the reduction in the basic rate of income tax to 23p with a widening of the lower 20p band.

The final framing of Mr Clarke's fourth Budget was made possible after three Cabinet ministers — John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, and Sir

schemes should be built by private companies which then charge "shadow tolls".

Mr Gummer has sacrificed another £250 million from the housing budget, which has suffered the largest cuts of any service. Since 1992 the Housing Corporation, which funds all cheap rented housing, has seen its budget cut from £2.56 billion to £1.07 billion. The effect will be higher rents for tenants and a cut in the building of cheap homes to fewer than 25,000 a year.

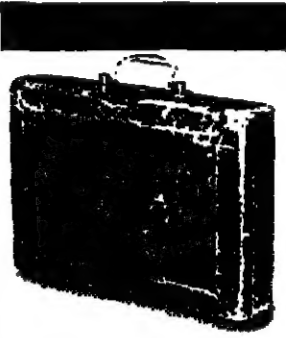
Mr Gummer has agreed to another £250 million in cuts in other budgets, including a reduction in grants to local authorities, and to less money for them to start new building programmes.

Mr Clarke expects to raise £200 million from increasing insurance premium tax from 3 per cent to 5 per cent. He will also end tax relief on profit-related pay, worth about £1.5 billion.

City expectations that Mr Clarke will deliver only modest tax cuts yesterday helped the stock market to have its best trading day of the year, with the FTSE 100 Index up 65 points to 4018.7.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats believe that, whatever Mr Clarke does, he will have to tackle the tax-spending gap after the election. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, hammered home his party's critique in a Guardian article today. "Whatever the Chancellor does on Tuesday, people will be paying more tax at the time of the 1997 general election than in 1992."

Tony Blair, The Week, page 17.



## Budget

The Guardian's unsurpassed team of political, economic and financial writers will provide comprehensive analysis on Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's pre-election budget in Wednesday's and Thursday's Guardian International.

## PM faces defeat in Euro debate

Michael White Political Editor

THE Government was last night facing the prospect of near-certain defeat over Europe next week after John Major's determination not to concede a Commons debate on the terms for a single currency pushed Tory Eurosceptics into the waiting arms of Tony Blair.

With John Redwood and his allies on the right determined to turn demands for a debate on three European documents into an issue of parliamentary accountability, Labour will today turn up the heat on the Prime Minister. The shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, will amplify threats that Labour will not allow ministers to give Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, a free hand in the meeting of EU finance ministers in Dublin on December 2 without the full Euro-debate backbenchers are clamouring for.

Unless there is a full debate in the Budget-packed week (Friday is the only feasible day), in government time, Mr Cook will organise a procedural vote on the issue. "John Major is left with a stark choice. He can either face humiliation through defeat in the vote or conquer his fear of

a debate in the Commons," Mr Cook said yesterday.

Tory whips will be working overtime this weekend, confident they can sidestep Labour's ambush. Mr Major may still try to tough it out, as he indicated in a letter to Mr Blair, insisting that he had been right to say there was no danger of the European Union's financial "stability pact" imposing "new legal sanctions".

"We retain the right to decide whether the UK will take part in a single currency, thanks to the opt-out which I fought for and won at Maastricht," Mr Major said.

Mr Major also insisted that he had not snubbed the chairman of the 1992 committee of all Tory backbenchers in refusing to receive his troubled delegation until next week. Sir Marcus Fox loyally endorsed his leader's line.

Mr Blair called Downing Street's tactics monstrous. But the Labour leader played down talk of an early vote of confidence if the Cabinet is defeated over the Premier's determination not to be rushed into holding a debate it had always planned for the week after.

Leader comment, page 6; Notebook, and Lira back in the ERM, page 11

News	World News	Finance	Sport	Comment and Letters 6; Obituaries 7; Weather 2
4	6	10	8	The Week
4	6	10	8	Crossword 24; Arts 18-19
4	6	10	8	Sport 20-24

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Blair keeps desert island silence



Diane Blood... denounced 'incredible' bureaucracy

'There is a clear requirement for the written and effective consent of a man after he has had the opportunity to receive counselling and after he has had a proper opportunity to consider the implications of a posthumous birth'

HFEA statement giving reasons for export refusal



An IVF technician at work. Diane Blood may yet go for IVF, where some clinicians would prefer to be left to get on with the job unfettered by ethics

# How ethics and the law joined a fight for new life after death

The case of Diane Blood looks set for appeal. But as science rushes forward, two branches of the medical establishment are in conflict over one of the most difficult questions of the age

Clare Dyer, Sarah Bassley and Tim Radford

THE legal wrangle over the case of Diane Blood, prevented from using her dead husband's sperm to have his child, is set to go to the Court of Appeal and possibly all the way to the European Court of Human Rights after the latest decision that she cannot be allowed to export the sperm to Belgium and use it there.

Last night the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) set out in full its reasons for the decision, which were centred on the complex issue of patient consent and denounced by Mrs Blood as "incredibly bureaucratic."

Thursday, the authority told her she would not be allowed to use her husband Stephen's sperm - removed from him 18 months ago as he lay dying in a coma - for artificial insemination abroad.

The reasons released last night made clear that Mr Blood's lack of consent was at the heart of its refusal. The authority made no new points, but reiterated the arguments it advanced when Mrs Blood challenged its earlier refusal in the High Court last month.

In a letter to Mrs Blood's solicitors, the authority said the "important requirements" laid down by Parliament that a sperm donor must have the opportunity of counselling and consent to consider the implications of a posthumous birth had not been met in the Bloods' case.

Dr Horner went on: "Law and ethics should not be adjusted to accommodate isolated cases... There will always be a new case to challenge the previously accepted view and to evoke our sympathy. The inevitable consequence will be a steady erosion of ethical standards."

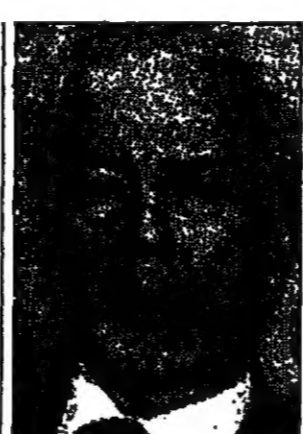
to identify a person's wishes from the evidence of another person." It also "bore in mind that Mr Blood had not given any consideration, let alone consent, to the export of his sperm to another country."

The letter reached Mrs Blood's solicitors after Spun on Wednesday with a request for her comments by 1pm on Thursday, an hour before the HFEA's meeting.

Dr Horner wrote: "We believe that the doctrine of informed consent, which is central to medical ethics, must not be eroded."

There was no evidence that Stephen Blood had clearly thought through the issue and the full implications of a child being created after his death, he added.

Dr Stuart Horner... no legal exceptions for isolated cases



Dr Horner initially raised the spectre of organs being taken from unconscious patients for transplant, but last night he accepted that clear rules exist under which patients must be declared brain dead before an organ can be removed.

But he insisted: "We are concerned that these individual cases, which we are told should be resolved on their merits, create a de facto precedent in which doctors never know which mine is going to explode. As a professional organisation we have to try to prevent that happening."

Last month, the High Court upheld the HFEA's contention that the Act of Parliament which set it up bans a wife's use of her dead husband's sperm in Britain without his written consent. But the authority has a discretion to waive its own rule that sperm should be exported for use abroad where the use is unlawful in Britain.

Margaret Brazier, professor of law at Manchester University and an expert on medical law and ethics, last night backed the HFEA's stance. "I think the authority is right. I don't think the legislation should be changed either," she said.

"I think it's a tragic case and I wouldn't for a moment cast doubt on what Mrs Blood is saying. But it is a fundamental principle of the act that there must be firm evidence of consent."

The HFEA is a constraining influence and a frequent irritant on the fertility specialists, who spend their lives pushing at the frontiers of the scientifically possible. They do not want it replaced, for fear of something worse, but find themselves in constant arguments with the regulatory body.

Lord Winston's bill - to amend the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act so that written consent is not always needed for the use of sperm - is a manifestation of that edgy relationship. It will receive its second reading in the House of Lords on December 10. Without government backing, it stands little chance of becoming law.

Dr Stuart Horner... no legal exceptions for isolated cases

Lord Winston... bill stands little chance of becoming law

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Lord Winston... bill stands little chance of becoming law

# How nature adds obstacles on path to pregnancy

Tim Radford on the role chance plays in artificial insemination

IF DIANE Blood is successful in getting permission to use her late husband's sperm for artificial insemination, she will have cleared only one hurdle. Nature provides others.

A teaspoon full of semen from a fertile male contains between 180 and 350 million sperm. Even so, there are no guarantees. In healthy couples there is only an 18 per cent chance of pregnancy each month.

But in 40 per cent of infertile couples, the male's sperm count is low to begin with. Fertility is a chance event, and a low sperm count makes it even more haphazard. Artificial insemination is a familiar and, in theory, simple technique, involving the insertion of donor sperm into the vagina with a syringe or straw.

fertilisation. In these, the woman is given drugs to provoke the production of eggs - collected in a relatively simple, swift operation - to be fertilised in a laboratory dish. Because the technique only works about one time in six, more than one egg is usually implanted back in the uterus; others can be frozen and stored in case the first attempts fail.

IVF is expensive. In a recent book, Lord Winston put the cost at anything between £1,400 and £2,200. Ordinary seminal fluid will not do the trick. The semen has to be filtered and the sperm separated from dead blood cells and dead sperm.

There is another statistic to remember - even if matters begin well, they can end badly: 10 to 15 per cent of all pregnancies abort spontaneously, for reasons that doctors still do not understand.

Dr Stuart Horner... no legal exceptions for isolated cases

Lord Winston... bill stands little chance of becoming law

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6 WORLD NEWS

Julian Borger reports on a new bullish mood in Belgrade and Zagreb  
**New nerve to Balkan protests**



A man wrapped in a Belarusian flag demonstrates in support of parliament, locked in a standoff with the president, outside its building in Minsk

**T**HE Serbian government was trying to weather an onslaught of sustained street protests last night, led by opposition parties which have accused the ruling socialists of blatant election-rigging.

In the fifth day of demonstrations in Serbian cities, about 1,000 students marched through the centre of Belgrade in support of the main opposition coalition, Zajedno (Together).

The previous day 20,000 Zajedno supporters staged the biggest protest seen in the capital for five years. Zajedno has claimed victory in 15 of the 18 largest towns in Serbia in the local elections last weekend.

violation of basic democratic principles and unscrupulous trampling of elementary human rights".

In the central industrial town of Nis, which Zajedno claims to have won, the electoral commission tipped the balance on the city council to the SPS by awarding them extra seats because of unspecified voting "irregularities".

The British ambassador, Ivor Roberts, stepped into the row, addressing a letter to Zajedno leaders in which he expressed concern at "the uncertainty and allegations over the results of the Serbian municipal elections".

"I have personally conveyed our concerns to the authorities here at the highest levels," he wrote.

"In particular I urged that any irregularities should be dealt with promptly and in accordance with the law."

Zajedno leaders said they expected final rulings from election commissions within the next two days. If the authorities hand more victories to the ruling party, further protests are almost certain.

So far, cordons of riot police have looked on as the demonstrators marched past. During street protests in 1991, they attacked the protesters with batons and water-can-

media, weak opposition parties and government reluctance to accept opposition electoral gains, even at local level.

In Croatia, President Franjo Tudjman has rejected a string of opposition candidates for the job of Zagreb mayor, overruling support from a clear majority in the city council.

An estimated 100,000 dem-

greb electorate took part in the protest. We really are talking about 'people power' here," said one Zagreb-based diplomat.

The governing Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) has retreated, saying Radio 101 will be free to bid for a renewed franchise. But the radio's management rejected the compromise yesterday, calling for an automatic renewal.

"What happened proves the people of Zagreb and Croatia are not going to put up with everything," said Zrinka Vrabec-Mojzes, the station's editor.

"This number of people was not seen in Zagreb for five years. But we are not so naive as to think that this was a final victory." President Tudjman was due to return home today after medical treatment in Washington, state television sources said the 71-year-old president was being treated for stomach cancer. State media said he had "digestive problems".

**'This number of people hasn't been seen in Zagreb for five years. But we are not so naive to think this is a final victory'**

**Belarus leader inflames crisis**

David Hearst in Moscow  
Jonathan Steele and  
Reuters in Minsk

**T**HE president of Belarus threatened last night to renege on a Russian-mediated deal to end his country's political crisis if parliament — which has accused him of seeking dictatorial powers through a referendum that culminates tomorrow — fails to ratify it.

"If you do not pass this resolution into law, I will be forced to return to the situation as it was the day before yesterday," Alexander Lukashenko warned deputies, who have accused their leadership of a sell-out in agreeing to compromise with him.

As the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin appeared on television to proclaim victory for the deal mediated by his prime minister, deputies in Belarus were tearing up the agreement and refusing to ratify it.

President Lukashenko last night gave the rebellious parliament two hours to agree to the terms.

He said: "I must state that the referendum will go ahead on November 24 and, as head of state, I will do everything I can to ensure that the will of the people will be binding within the framework of the agreement."

The deal established a commission — staffed half by the president's supporters and half by his opponents — to work out a new constitution.

President Lukashenko agreed to make the referendum consultative, rather than binding, as he had wanted. The parliamentary leader, Semyon Sharyts, undertook to withdraw a petition by deputies seeking to impeach him.

But many deputies were having none of it. After two weeks of voting — and heavy vote-rigging — the referendum is certain to give President Lukashenko a resounding win.

This will allow him to say that he has popular backing to demand a new constitution which weakens parliament and continues the mandate of the presidency until 2001. He will also have a natural majority on the commission.

Communists, social democrats and liberals urged parliament to continue with its impeachment bid, as Mr Sharyts sat exhausted.

A social democratic deputy, Pavel Znavets, said: "We must declare impeachment — God has given us one last chance."

Mikhail Sazon, a middle-aged factory worker, who stood wrapped in a Belarusian flag with a small group of demonstrators in Independence Square early yesterday, said: "The president is a liar. He should have been pushed into resignation."

Mr Lukashenko has refused to withdraw 17 decrees which the constitutional court considered unconstitutional. He accused the chairman of the electoral commission, Viktor Gonchar, who said there were so many discrepancies with the referendum that he would refuse to confirm its validity.

Mr Lukashenko has been helped by Russia, which posed in this crisis as the motherland intervening in a family dispute. Integration is popular — particularly in alling rural areas.

As if to emphasise the link with Russia, Mr Lukashenko's aides chose yesterday to announce that Moscow had withdrawn its last mobile nuclear missiles from Belarusian soil.

**Britain agrees to Israeli dialogue**

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**B**RTAIN and Israel are to begin a regular "strategic dialogue" to boost military co-operation and exchange assessments on Middle Eastern "regimes" such as Iraq and Iran.

Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's defence minister, has finalised details with the defence secretary, Michael Portillo, and the first session is to be held in Tel Aviv in January.

It will include talks between senior officials on operational doctrine, the future battlefield and terrorism.

The two countries already co-operate in these areas, but the dialogue is intended to upgrade the exchanges and encourage growing links between

their respective defence industries and intelligence communities.

British officials said discussions were held on a "wide range of bilateral and geopolitical topics" and acknowledged that contacts with Israel had improved.

Mr Mordechai meanwhile announced that agreement on the West Bank town of Hebron, due to be evacuated by Israel under the Oslo accord with the PLO, was now only "days away".

He insisted no new settlements were being planned in the West Bank, although existing ones could be expanded.

Visiting London for the first time, Mr Mordechai has been forced to cope with the chilled relations, even in friendly countries, which have emerged since the election victory of the Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

But Israeli sources angrily denied reports that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, had given Mr Mordechai a blunt warning over settlement policy. They accused Foreign Office officials of deliberately hostile media briefing.

Mr Rifkind's private secretary later telephoned the Israeli ambassador, Moshe Raviv, to apologise and to explain that the foreign secretary was "very cross" at the reports.



Due to the temporary closure of the Channel Tunnel, Eurostar regrets that all services (including Eurostar Link trains) continue to be suspended until further notice.

Customers holding tickets will be fully refunded or offered alternative booking dates, regardless of ticket type. New or amended bookings cannot currently be made for travel to be taken before 1 December 1996.

Eurostar is ready to resume services and bookings as soon as the authorities approve the re-opening of the Channel Tunnel to Eurostar trains.

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Arms race in the Aegean



Greece's tax and defend budget to cost the rich £11bn

EU's poorest nation must bite the bullet, writes Helena Smith

THE Greek people may be into their 11th year of economic austerity...

Further economic hardship by appealing to patriotic sentiment at a time of growing tensions between Greece and Turkey.



Wake of conflict... Turkish commandos return from the disputed Aegean island of Imia, or Kardak early this year after planting the Turkish flag.

Join the first round of countries participating in the EU's economic and monetary union.

Athens to rake in its huge public-sector deficits if it is to keep pace with its partners.

post of being the EU's poorest member state — and is also among Nato's biggest weapons spenders.

the only way to maintain a military balance with Turkey, which has likewise recently increased its expenditure on defence.

Mr Simitis, a moderniser who is keen to please the mandarins in Brussels.

of further belt-tightening, by slapping new taxes on property, bonds and treasury bills.

But there are real and increasing fears that the programme will be just as quick to exacerbate Greek-Turkish tensions by fueling the bad chemistry that almost brought the neighbours to war in January.

Crossed lines from the EU

Telecom changes promise chaos

Nicholas Bannister and Julia Wolf

SPeAK TO A German businessman in private and he will tell you that he cannot wait for the day when newly privatised Deutsche Telekom starts to face real competition.

markets are to be liberalised from January 1, 1998. But the European Commission's hopes of immediate competition, and lower prices and costs for European businesses operating in global markets, are unlikely to be fulfilled.

licences to act as national telecom operators, and the government has indicated that they will be awarded next year.

Five EU member states — Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Luxembourg — have been granted the right to open up their markets more slowly.

Spain has agreed to have legislation in place and start granting licences by August 1, 1998.

local industry to lose competitive advantage because of high telecom costs.

And the commission will have to ensure that the rules are working. Moreover, there are 30 to 40 measures supposed to be in place by this year's end, which means that hitches are likely.

There is still no agreement on key EU legislation covering the connection of newcomers with networks owned by the dominant national phone companies.

competitors out, but Brussels expects to receive complaints about licensing authorities.

On licensing, Ms Boyle said that if national regulators use licensing to obstruct access to the market, "you're going to see a lot of litigation."

Industry sources believe that although legislation and regulatory systems will be in place on time, crucial details will be lacking.

too much to the discretion of national regulators will also cause problems.

On licensing, Ms Boyle said that if national regulators use licensing to obstruct access to the market, "you're going to see a lot of litigation."

There is a lack of political will in many countries, particularly in France and the southern countries," said one executive.

Bull markets ride Russia's big bang

David Meares in Moscow

ASK the average investment fund manager what he or she knows about Russia and you will probably get a detailed account of the state of Boris Yeltsin's left ventricle, or be reminded how the mafia settles its accounts.

Phrases like "steadily improving fundamentals" do not leap to mind when discussing Russia's crisis-ridden transition to a market economy.

That is the perception. The reality is that international funds in Europe, Asia and the US leapt on Thursday at the chance of investing \$1 billion in the Russian economy in the form of a eurobond issue.

It was Russia's first state sovereign borrowing in 80 years. The sum was twice that predicted, and even that issue was heavily oversubscribed.

An annual interest rate of 9.25 per cent, or 345 points above the benchmark US treasury securities, makes the bond look like easy money.

But it matures in five years, and who in Russia is prepared to say that will happen in even five months?

Certainly not the International Monetary Fund whose team of examining magistrates is not prepared to release the monthly tranches of its \$10 billion loan.

The move has upset the works council, which believes the state should have stumped up another DM100 million and carried on.

tions in full this year. The situation is difficult. We have problems, and there will be certain problems in 1997.

Why then were the international markets so upbeat? Before Russia's big bang on the international markets, a frank-looking but fast-talking Mr Yeltsin emerged from hospital to assure everyone he was still alive.

His appearance probably had a reassuring effect on the eurobond issue, but it was the "fundamentals" of Russia's economy that told more on the hard-headed investor.

Just before the Russian central bank sent its three wisest men to sell the forthcoming eurobond to investors in London, Paris and Tokyo, three international rating-agencies gave Russia a higher credit rating than expected.

Standard & Poor's, one of the agencies, was obliged to note: "A weak legal system, including lax enforcement that continues to foster widespread corruption, discourages foreign investment and acts as a drag on overall economic activity."

The "fundamentals" observers keep talking about are Russia's huge energy and natural mineral reserves, a big mainly oil- and gas-related trade surplus, and a record in meeting its debts.

This has to be qualified — as French savers found out when the Soviet government cancelled its imperial debt, a massive compensation claim that still has to be settled.

It is also true that the Russian government has spent nearly five years reaching an agreement on rescheduling the former Soviet Union's \$120 billion foreign debt, \$33 billion of which is commercial bank debt.

The Eurobond issue will be followed by others. Gasprom, Russia's richest state gas concern, and Moscow and St Petersburg, Russia's two blue-chip cities, want to raise money through an issue.

Buy Now, Pay May '97

Advertisement for a computer system with various offers, prices, and payment options. Includes 'Sensational Price £1055.15 inc VAT' and 'Interest Free Credit'.

The town that refuses to die

Julia Gieritz

HEAVY engineering company Sket stands as a symbol for East German industry; it was big, now it is bankrupt.

"Sket belongs to Magdeburg like the river Elbe and the cathedral," argues union leader Jörg Meising. "If Sket is closed, a part of our identity goes with it."

Sket, based in the heart of Saxonia-Anhaltina, once employed 13,000 in the city of Magdeburg alone and more than 30,000 in all. Now the payroll is down to 1,500.

The local community is fighting to save the plant, which makes heavy equipment for the steel and cabling industries.

Workers' demonstrations have regularly been augmented by shopkeepers and housewives — and even sportsmen and politicians.

have joined the battle to keep the plant alive.

Sket's tale is a familiar one in the former East Germany, where industry has shed a million jobs since 1991.

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EUROCATS

Table of TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and USA.

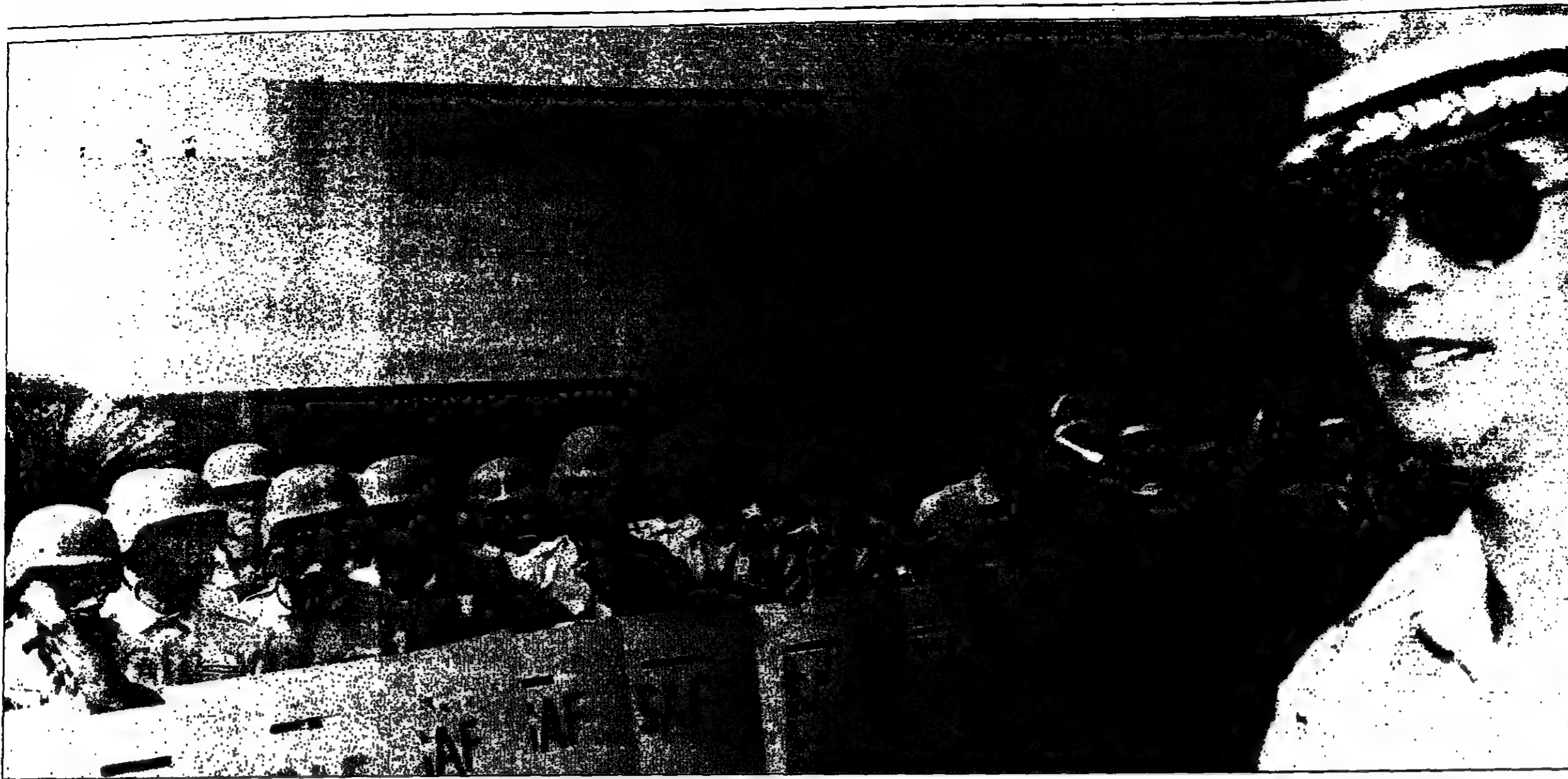
Advertisement for Eurocats featuring a cartoon by Kipper Williams with the text 'DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND BE LEAD TO SAFETY!' and 'KEEP GOING AND HOPE THINGS GET SORTED OUT FURTHER DOWN THE LINE'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.



# Finance Guardian

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Security shield... police officers in gas masks guard the convention centre where Apec leaders will hold their meeting

PHOTOGRAPH: PAT ROQUE

## Tigers meet tribesmen

### Welcome to Manila. Please don't upset the security guards. And don't expect miracles. NICK CUMMING-BRUCE reports

PERHAPS only in Manila could God and Mammon find such effusive and simultaneous indulgence. The city is festooned with Christmas trees, cribs and coloured lights on an even more lavish scale than usual as it prepares to receive leaders of 18 Asian and Pacific Rim countries for an annual summit that is becoming one of the more eye-catching fixtures on the international agenda.

Manila and Subic Bay, the former American naval base where leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum will hold their summit, are also in the grip of unprecedented security. The Philippines has committed \$3.5 million (£2 million) and some 30,000 men to shielding the meeting against a motley array of enemies, from communist insurgents and Islamic militants to the participants in a leftist "peasants' summit".

But President Fidel Ramos probably has more to worry about in trying to bring Mon-

day's summit to a conclusion that lives up to the mantras of free trade and open regionalism concocted at earlier Apec assemblies. With two days to go, no one is yet quite sure of the outcome.

At Seattle in 1993, the leaders set their sights on creating "a community" of economies in the region. In Indonesia the next year, they set deadlines for achieving "free and open trade and investment" — 2010 for Apec's industrial economies and 2020 for other members. Last year's summit in Osaka focused on a blueprint for putting these goals into action.

After all the visionary stuff, the Philippines was charged with what Cesar Bautista, its trade secretary, calls "a dirty kitchen year". Subic "will be the first real test of whether Apec's member economies mean what they have said", according to Fred Bergsten, director of Washington's Institute for International Economics and one of the "wise men" who steered leaders towards framing these goals.

With only a fortnight or so

to the World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting in Singapore, Apec leaders are also conscious of the opportunity they have to act as a force for liberalisation on a still wider, multilateral stage.

After all, their members account for 40 per cent of the world's population, about 46 per cent of exports and well more than half of its output. They can also dangle before a salvaging world the need for new infrastructure in Asia worth somewhere in the region of \$1.5 trillion over the next few years and the opportunities offered by booming intra-Asian trade.

Yet the brass, anything-possible self-confidence of the world's fastest-growing economies has given way over the past 12 months to hesitation that has slowed the work of shaping common positions and prompted Mr Bergsten to warn there is "a serious risk of failure at Subic".

A club of countries looking after the needs of Chinese talpans, Detroit auto-workers and penis-gourd-wearing stone age tribesmen of Papua New Guinea could be excused for teething troubles. The diversity that helped make Apec such an eye-catching addition to regional trade groupings is complicating the task of finding common ground.

The headaches explain why Apec members yesterday lifted a moratorium on new members, but put off announcing the lucky countries until 1998. Russia, India, Peru and Vietnam are in the queue for membership and many more are interested.

But Asian countries used to acclaim as the shooting stars of the world economy are also having to come to terms with less flattering reviews and hard questions about their ability to compete.

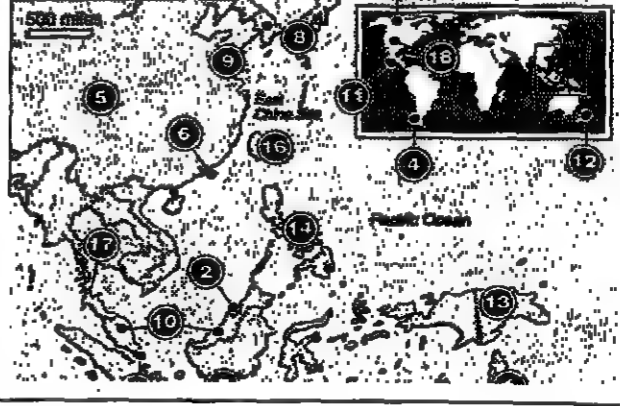
The Philippines, luckily as host to this summit, is not one of them. President Ramos is basking in sudden acclaim for his country as Asia's next tiger, brought by rising growth across the board. The summit is a golden opportunity to showcase the turnaround he has achieved in this sprawling archipelago that was written off as Asia's sick man in the 1980s and now luring back investors.

Its neighbours to north and south are less fortunate. After the double-digit growth of the 1980s, South Korea's aggressively expanding conglomerates find their competitiveness eroded by soaring costs and an almost neolithic financial sector.

South-east Asian countries are coming to terms, too, with a sudden fall-off in the exports that have kept their tiger economies purring, while trying to assure invest-

### At the summit party

Members of Asian/Pacific Economic Co-operation	Population (Million)	Per capita income (US\$1000)
1 Australia	18.2	14.5
2 Brazil	156.1	1.5
3 Canada	32.1	18.5
4 Chile	13.2	4.5
5 China	1,150.0	0.4
6 Hong Kong	6.1	18.5
7 Indonesia	189.2	0.8
8 Japan	123.2	18.5
9 South Korea	45.1	10.5
10 Malaysia	18.0	3.5
11 Mexico	91.5	3.7
12 New Zealand	3.3	17.5
13 Papua New Guinea	4.3	1.2
14 The Philippines	68.1	1.0
15 Singapore	2.8	18.5
16 Taiwan	21.2	10.5
17 Thailand	60.5	1.2
18 United States	251.0	18.5



**The Guardian** INTERNATIONAL

available throughout Europe

**T**HIS seems to be a minority view. "The downturn now is strictly cyclical," counters Bob Broadfoot of Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, also in Hong Kong. "It's a rude awakening or a warning signal that they can't take double-digit growth for granted and need to push reform if they don't want a cyclical problem to become a structural one."

Either way, the uncertainty has taken some of the lustre off Apec members' earlier commitments to the heady vision of an "anti-Apec summit" staged by non-government organisations and labour groups alleges free trade delivers benefits to the economic powers at the expense of the poor. Some Asian politicians and officials, looking at US tariffs on textiles and issues like labour standards, seem inclined to agree.

American efforts to win support for what on the face of it looks an attractive Information Technology Agreement may be a casualty of such sentiment. The proposal would remove by 2000 tariffs on a wide range of computer hardware, software and data processing equipment crucial to Asian consumers as well as US and Japanese producers. But it has won less than ful-

some support. Tough haggling on the scope of the package and timing of the phase-out appear to keep the outcomes in the balance.

By the same token, President Ramos has faced an uphill task extracting commitments to tariff reductions from some Apec members in the "individual action plans" submitted for the summit.

Countries like Australia, New Zealand and Singapore put in what by general consent were exemplary papers, and China, at best cautious on multilateral commitments, a positive effort. The US and Japan, preoccupied with elections, stirred hardly at all. Taking their cue from the big powers, others offered little they would not have offered anyway under their commitments to the WTO.

The Philippines tactfully professes itself pleased. "We have agreed on baselines and a format," says Jesus Estanislao, a former finance minister and adviser to President Ramos on Apec matters. "In April we thought we couldn't do it, we didn't have the common data. Now we have a frame of reference."

It is unrealistic to expect anything more at this stage, economists say. The work done for this summit opens the way for several years of trench warfare over the eye-glazing minutiae of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

But there is a suspicious move, as some analysts see it, to broaden the summit agenda. President Ramos's determination to raise the profile of private-sector business — apparently in the face of disdain from the US — has won broad approval. The blunt message from local corporate chiefs is that if they moved as slowly as government they would have been out of job long ago.

The host's plan to include debate on developing the Apec community draws mixed reviews, however. "If they end up talking about community spirit at Subic," snapped a western diplomat, "you will know the whole thing has been a bit of a damp squib."

But this is where President Clinton may prove particularly useful to his hosts. International trade issues remain, by all accounts, close to his heart. His enthusiasm for Apec also remains unstinted, for the most persuasive of reasons: national self-interest.

US trade negotiators point out America does substantial more trade with Asia and the Pacific than with Europe — about \$880 billion worth, two-thirds of US world trade. Apec "helps anchor us in the region," says ambassador John Wolf. It "provides a

### Quick Crossword No. 8291

**Across**

- 1 Exclusive control (of sales) (8)
- 5 Group, maybe musical (4)
- 9 Set (5)
- 10 Old cab or angry dog (7)
- 11 Fiat track (9,3)
- 13 Baby's toy or snake (6)
- 14 Goat or rabbit (6)
- 17 Same speech sounds starting (12)
- 20 Common bird (7)
- 21 Angry (Old English) (5)
- 22 Go down — in the kitchen (4)

**Down**

- 1 (Converted) stables (4)
- 2 Disregard (7)
- 3 Civilian acting as soldier (12)
- 4 Story or inscription (5)
- 6 Permit (5)
- 7 Racing scene by Frith (5,3)
- 8 Superstructure of submarine (7,5)
- 12 State of Little Rock (8)
- 15 Smelly (7)
- 16 Development (6)
- 18 Study or discover (5)
- 19 Footwear (4)

**Solution No. 8290**

23 Self-righteous moralist (8)

24 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 248. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

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The Guardian

# the week



## Guns aim abroad

Britain's shooters feel betrayed. Their guns, bullets and businesses are being taken away from them. Now they are looking for a new place to hang their holsters and discharge their anger. **Christopher Elliott** reports

**S**MALL red lettering picks out the words from the background of peeling paint over the shop which sits at the end of a nondescript suburban parade in north London. The Gunshop, the lettering says. Inside, but not for much longer, stands Joe Beatham. He is surrounded by some of the 240,000 worth of pistols and accessories that he says the Government has rendered worthless: 9 mm Brownings, .44 Magnum Smith & Wessons, shoulder holsters and boxes full of ammunition. As a result of what he perceives as the state's "betrayal", he is moving his family and his business out of the country: lock, stock and barrel, so to speak. "I am going to see how much money I can get out of the Government and then move out. I am going to see that me and my family never contribute another bit of revenue to this country again. I

have been betrayed for political expediency." Beatham, a Liverpoolian, aged 43, says his plan is to find a suitable property near Calais or Boulogne and set up a shooting complex. There people will be able to use the "rifles that were taken off them in 1988 and the pistols that were taken from them in '96". He will not be alone. Since Parliament's vote on Monday in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, banning handguns larger than .22 calibre and requiring smaller pieces to be kept at gun clubs, 60,000 licensed handgun holders in the UK have been thrown into a spin. They are now bitterly contemplating their future, and for many that means packing bags and taking their guns or their entire lives abroad. Scotland Yard and other police forces have already seen an increase in applications for European passes to travel with guns while the Department of Trade

and Industry reports a rise in the number of requests for export licences. There is a small but growing army on the march, fuelled by the loss of a sport and in many cases livelihoods. The raw anger of the shooting fraternity (most are men) blazes out of the November issue of Target Gun, the official journal of the National Pistol Association. Slapped across many of the standard advertisements for 22LR Beretta Mod 78 pistols and 9 mm 147 gram jacketed bullets are mock flyposters which leave no room for restraint or doubt. "Entire business MURDERED by Thomas Hamilton" lies across the half-page advert for Shooters, a Welsh rifle and pistol club. Another advert for Howitzer Products, based in Oxfordshire has this stamped all over it: page 14

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**I WANT TO BUY MY YOUNG DAUGHTER a special Christmas present which will start her off well when she leaves school. Any ideas?**

**Mrs A Harris**  
CAMBRIDGE



JENNY WILSON  
National Savings

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To help ensure the bonus is received before Christmas, please send your application no later than 2 December using the application form in Jobs and Money. Our full guide to our Children's Bonus Bonds is available on request. Please call 0500 500 000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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the week that was

Us on us

The British view

A mysterious light has been floating around in the early morning sky in the Vale of Clwyd. Mr Tom Prydderch and his wife Margaret of Rhyll Road, Denbigh, believe they saw a UFO. Two years ago Mrs Prydderch saw the same light dancing wildly around the sky. "It was definitely not a car, motorcycle or searchlight because we could see it in the sky, a very bright white light that was certainly not a star."

a helicopter searchlight. A north Wales Police spokesman said that the police helicopter would not have been in the area at that time. Denbighshire Free Press & North Wales Times

Great Harwood florist, Mrs Sharples, is making a 700-mile round trip by car to France in order to stock up with mistletoe for the festive period owing to a shortage of the seasonal sprig in England. "French mistletoe is much more romantic I think and I'm sure we'll get some jokers coming into the shop asking to try it out."

Them on them

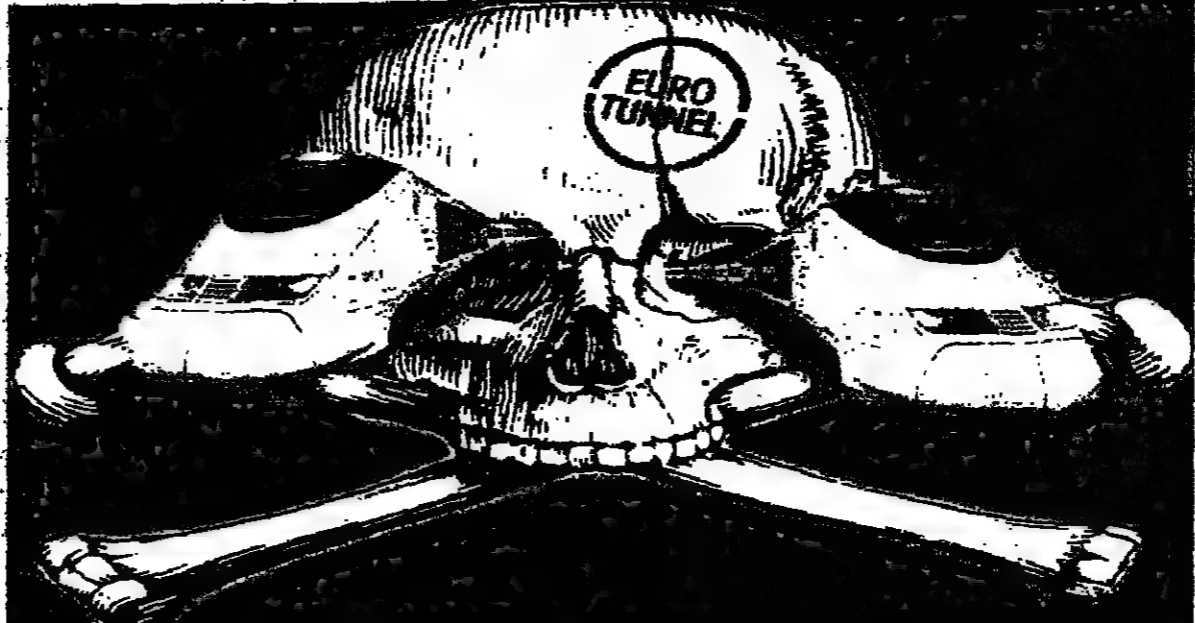
The global view

If the charge was found to be without foundation and the case dismissed, the wrong would be considerable. It would then be necessary to revise the law governing the accusation of ministers. It would also be necessary to consider those who set this in motion if it should turn out that their motivation was not the quest for justice and truth.

"My power. So powerful. I could just go bang, bang, bang." These words of Martin Bryant brought

a court yesterday the closest to understanding what caused the gunman's explosion of resentment against the world. Sydney Morning Herald on the Tasmanian mass-murderer sentenced this week

San Francisco, the city that created a task force to consider legalising prostitution, is mulling over another bold idea — covering the cost of sex-change operations for city employees. Arthur Bruzzone, chairman of the San Francisco Republican Party, and others say such operations are not medically necessary. They liken it to breast enhancement surgery. Evening Observer, Dunfermline, N.Y.



THEME OF THE WEEK TRANSPORT PARANOIA

It wouldn't be going properly until it reached England, should ensure some coding EuroTunnals away from the main roads. It's a bit of a mess, leading to the conclusion that perhaps driving is the best option for extreme sporters. Good news: there about the traffic information Super Highway, the world's first country-wide traffic computer system.

Despite widespread panic attacks, no one was hurt. Only four had been injured. Incidents of motorway madness, leading to the conclusion that perhaps driving is the best option for extreme sporters. Good news: there about the traffic information Super Highway, the world's first country-wide traffic computer system.

There could not have been a better week for anyone nervous about all forms of transport to have stayed at home, preferably in bed, with the dryer pulled over their head. First, every tunnel-paraholic's nightmare (or is it dream?) was confirmed, when a heavy coach fell on a train in the Channel Tunnel. Reports that officials merely sent the smouldering truck on its way at the French end, presumably in the hope that

stories is a bit of a crime, especially for the new novel by Michael Chabon, originator of pretty much everything from The Andromeda Strain to Comic to Jurassic Park to the Airplane. Chabon's latest, is a cozy read about inexplicable failures of aircraft, apparently limited to come out in the worst recent year for air crashes.

When the queen of people's hearts opened hers

This week last year November 20, 1995

It was the scoop of the decade, the interview of a life-time. When the Princess of Wales appeared on Panorama, on November 20, 1995, she had an audience of 23 million. The announcement of the interview received a mixed response. The Daily Mail used the headline "Profoundly Regrettable" and warned "Palace Will Not Forgive"; the Daily Mirror mused "Has She Gone Nuts?"



Diana has become a single parent, lost the title of HRH, gained an injunction against a "stalking" member of the paparazzi, severed links with 100 charities and, of course, her desire to be "queen of people's hearts". In the year that has passed,

year, agrees the interview was good for her. "She continues to be one of the most popular celebrities in the world. The interview did not damage her image; that was evident during the time I was working for her."

For the other main player

The Princess and the reporter... Martin Bashir, the envy of royal watchers

In the Panorama saga, the interviewer, Martin Bashir, the outcome has been more mixed. The immediate impact was to propel this relatively inexperienced reporter into the limelight, and for a time Bashir was the Beeb's golden boy. He was the envy of hacks throughout Fleet Street, some of whom had dedicated more than 20 years of their life to royal reporting without coming close to such a sensational scoop. How on earth did he persuade Diana to open up her heart, they asked.

ambushed whenever she took the kids to school.

In April, the Mail on Sunday alleged that Bashir, who is still with Panorama, used fake bank documents to lure Diana into being interviewed. Counter-attacking, the BBC hierarchy suggested jealous colleagues were waging a smear campaign against him. Hewlett maintains that the rumours of foul play were nothing more than that. "There is no question of the princess being tricked into doing the interview. The Mail on Sunday spent time and money trying to find something wrong, but all they got was a story without a punchline."

Guns aim abroad

page 12 "Eight staff at Howitzer. Eight more Hamilton victims". Individual shooters in the letters column invoke the US Bill of Rights and Thomas Jefferson in support of the battle to overturn the perceived injustice of the handgun ban. Correspondents blame the media, the Tories, the Labour Party, police and the emotional bandwagon of the anti-gun Snowdrop campaign for their plight. J. Clark from Merseyside expresses the common sentiment most lyrically in a poem: Truly the pen is mightier than the gun.



ian clubs, whose members could be called upon to fight in time of war or used to instruct "green" troops. Lord Salisbury said he could see the day when there would be a rifle in every cottage in England. Improved marksmanship was credited with being a key factor in the successful retreat from Mons in the first world war. But the ethos, and the practice, waned after the second world war. By the time of Hungerford, when Michael Ryan shot 16 people dead on August 19, 1987, the reaction of the public was surprise and bemusement that ordinary individuals were allowed to keep weapons such as AK-47s at home, and in such quantities.

introduced laws in 1988 to ban self-loading rifles. Many shooters were aggrieved as they felt the police should have been penalised for poorly administering licensing controls rather than harassing law-abiding citizens. Gradually calm was restored. Jitters began to disappear. And then Dunblane...

Guns have become the target of public anger...

The Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club, founded in 1906, was itself formed out of the post-Boer War movement. Now it is following a new path abroad. "We are currently in talks with a gun club in France that would allow us to use our guns," said Peter Brooksmith, the club's honorary secretary. He is just one among a number of dealers and shooters looking for a new start in a country that has a traditionally strong gun lobby. French legislation remains weak and firmly skewed in favour of hunters, who are drawn from all social classes. Political parties of left and right invariably quote social problems rather than gun ownership as the cause of escalating violence.

ing a switch to rifle shooting, as rifles (self-loading varieties apart) are not covered by the ban. "Pistol shooters are already applying to join rifle clubs. Many will go that way," he says. A few optimists among them believe that pistol shooters will be able simply to "re-invent" the sport, by building weapons that fall just outside the specifications of a handgun set down in the new legislation. Richard Laws believes that guns with barrels longer than the 30 cm established as the definition of a handgun may make an appearance on the market within a year.

- Quiz answers
1. Brigitte Bardot, who left fourth husband Bernard d'Ormalto because of his ultra-lighting hairings
2. (a) Sarah Ferguson, explaining the failure of her marriage
3. (a) Tommy Lee, who was ditched by Pamela Anderson after 21 months of marriage
4. (a) Peter Lilley, whose wife Gill resigned 'Hello' that her husband was not gay
5. Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which placed full-page advertisements in the national press to badmouth its opponents
6. Bob Monkhouse, whose stolen joke books were returned. (They know they were his because some of the jokes were so old, they were written in Latin.)
7. (a) Barbara Cartland. Tewkesbury town council rejected a proposal to name a street after her.
8. Healdron Foods, which supplies the Vatican with smoked salmon, has cancelled its forthcoming deliveries, each worth £2,500, because of late payment.
9. Buster, Roy Hattersley's Staffordshire bull terrier, who was fined for killing a royal goose in St James's Park.
10. Sulaiman Khan, son of Imran and Jemima.
11. A catfish caught by Steve Bond in Essex — the biggest freshwater fish ever caught in Britain
12. Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Taoiseach, who won a libel action against the Sunday Times but faced costs of £1 million.
13. (a) Michael Knighton, who stepped down as chairman of Carfax United after it was revealed that he had seen a UFO on the M62 (probably stuck in traffic).
14. Chris Morris, whose Channel 4 show Brass Eye was postponed because he hoaxed Home Office ministers over a non-existent drug called "Coke".
15. (c) W H Auden, a cache of whose early poems was discovered in a trunk.
How you rate
0-1 Low rate
5-9 Good
10-14 Taster
15 Catcher

Lucy the s with tea a cake

- 1. Which sex symbol left her husband because of his extremism?
2. "We built our house with sticks. So when the storm came, it blew away." Who bore the fate of her relationship?
3. "He's a crazy guy and life with him was a nightmare." Who was under attack?
4. "Of course he isn't gay. I had a real fight and had to tell quite a few attractive women to pee off." Who is the real man?
5. "John Major is impotent... Tony Blair is dumb." According to whom?
6. "It's wonderful news. My blood has turned to champagne." Who was laughing again?
7. "A very silly person and not the sort we want Tewkesbury associated with." Who was councillor Dick McKean describing?
8. No smoked salmon in the Holy See. Why?
9. Name this deadly def.
10. Who weighed in at 7lb 4oz?
11. What weighed in at 98lb?
12. "Zero pounds. Zero pence." A court victory for whom?
13. Who had a close encounter of the third division kind?
14. Who couldn't have his "Gate" and eat it?
15. "A rotting waterwheel stands gaunt and stark/Against the skyline of the moors/The vacant windows stare out grim and dark/Moss grows on the wet stones of the old washing floors." Whose verse?
(a) T S Eliot
(b) W S Graham
(c) W H Auden
(d) e e cummings



Answers, bottom left of this page

Proar in the case at bank's trip the toilet

Even when she's suffering from sleep deprivation, Lucinda Lambton is never less than joyfully barking

# Lucy in the sky with tea and cake

## THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW



**L**ADY Lucinda Lambton cautiously opens the Old Rectory door. "Oh but I'm zombied, zonked, wooden-headed," she moans. "I woke up at 8am worrying about worrying about not being able to sleep and I'm so tired I almost called you to say don't come."

When you talk to Lambton she seems to glass over. Perhaps this is the lack of sleep. Anyway, how she looks runs second to how she sounds. Her voice is all-consuming and even though she's tired, it still resonates, like Fergie's, with upper-class glee. She also shouts frequently for no apparent reason, as if she's suffering a mild form of Tourette's syndrome. "CAN DA!" she barks at Florence again. "IT'S A SCANDAL!"

We kick off by discussing her new book, Lucinda Lambton's A To Z Of Britain, a strangely gripping if eclectic history, in which she mentions that her "great great, great, great, great, great grandmother" Pocahontas is buried at Gravesend.

"I have got a very, very, VERY exciting, thrilling three minutes about her on the beginning of one of my films," she hoots - much easier talking about a distant ancestor than her father, Lord Lambton. "Pocahontas ... very VERY thrilling, it just couldn't BE more exciting! I want you to see it." And she leaps up and starts rummaging through a haphazard pile of tapes.

At this point Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Lambton's third husband, pops his head round the door. "Lucy, I'll take the dogs."

dust. I feel a banana on television. Now the video's winding back. So sorry. Please carry on talking."

So I ask her about Perry, a former editor of the Sunday Telegraph, whom she agreed to marry one week after meeting him, and fewer than six months after his first wife had died. Shortly afterwards they gave several interviews proclaiming how much in love they were. Six years on, are they still? "Of course we are, says Perry," she says absently. "It's worked out then?" "Yuh. Now I press seven. TV, seven, VCR, play. Right. Now watch the excitement of this, watch the EXCITEMENT of THIS!" Out booms the Star Spangled Banner and Lambton starts to sing.

"Americah, Americah! So MOVING," she shouts. And for one wildly surreal moment I am confronted by two Lucinda Lambtons. One in the flesh singing for all she's worth, the other on screen, filmed in Washington, kneeling in front of a portrait of Pocahontas. "What completely spooked me," says the real Lambton suddenly grasping my hand, "was that I was wearing the same dress as she was wearing and we both had our hair DOWN! Do you want a cigarette?"

She lights up a long slim brown More. "Are you sure you don't want a cigarette now you've smelt them? I'm so sorry to be incoherent. Do you suffer the same way? Oh isn't that funny?" And she picks up a photograph of herself leaning against Jimmy Seville. "The rectory, in Fuchsia-shire, was a wreck when Lambton bought it 18 years ago and she's since restored it with all her eccentric might. Every surface is covered with an assortment of little figures, dolls house food, photos and books; every cupboard crammed with a cranky combination of plastic Blackpool towers and replica plates from Martha Washington's dinner service. Would she ever move? "NO!"

But what about the argument that a house can possess you? "Not if it's your passion, not if you write about houses. Oh my God!" she exclaims dramatically, starting out to the roof where the afternoon sun is shining. "Look at that SEADOWN!"

She takes another drag on her brown cheroot and stares me dazedly. "So your argument would be that a person is a lesser person because they depend on possessions?" Not necessarily, but I had heard that after marrying her second husband, a painter, she never saw him again because she refused to move out of her house. "Information from a CBEAFO writer," she bellows. But it's very interesting. I protest. "I suppose you find it so," she says crossly. "But I don't like talking about personal things. It's INDECENT!"



Lucinda Lambton ... "We'll go for a run round the garden next, I'm feeling perky now!"

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCABE

**"Yes. Oh gosh, um. I feel a banana on television. Now the video's winding back. So sorry. Please carry on talking"**

And I fear that if we disobeey, she may tear off across the garden snorting and tossing her chestnut hair in anger. So she proceeds tea and a further chance to snoop round the house. "Look at this," she hoots, grabbing a fat red stick of the mautepiece. "This is what farmers use when harvesting jalapeno peppers. They can tell if it's ripe by matching the colour. I'm gripped by it to the point of FAINTING!"

"Oh Paul," she continues, leaping on one of the builders busily laying central heating. "I've got a message for you. Could you be very kind and take up the floorboards because there's a lot of dead rats?"

"Oh hundreds of them upstairs. They've just been discovered." And she lets loose an infectious whooping laugh which echoes round the hall. We all troop upstairs in pursuit of the dead vermin, but en route the phone goes and she disappears. A moment later I hear her yelling "Are you calling from Rhodesia?"

Lucy: "What will happen to the poison if anyone eats it?" Perry: "Like who?" Lucy: "The dogs." Perry: "Oh I thought you meant if I suddenly wanted a midnight feast! What will happen to the rats underneath the floor though?" Lucy: (Distracted). "There'll be a sweet smell. Perry, who was the newspaper columnist who lived here?" Perry: "Oh I told you." Lucy: "Oh I told you."

## JEREMY HARDY



**Uproar in the House at Frank's trip to the toilet**

**A**COUPLE of weeks ago I was told that Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, had got hold of the idea that a man I knew was on the IRA army council. My reaction at the time was sheer amusement. "Frank? Has Dewar ever met him?" Not being a proper journalist, I didn't give it much more thought, until this week, when the Independent's John Rentoul decided it was a serious story.

So, not only had I sat on a scoop for two weeks, but I had allowed the scoop to be had by journalist deficient in humour who seems to take his line straight from Tony Blair's office. The reason I had not used the information was that, however absurd the accusation is to everyone who knows Frank, there is always the danger that someone out there is as daft as Dewar.

Initially, the story appeared to be that those someone include MIS. This is what Dewar told the three Campaign Group MPs he carpentered for meeting the Sinn Fein delegation Frank was escorting around Westminster. What muddies the story is that Dewar will use any excuse to carpet Campaign Group MPs and that, according to Rentoul, he was "sceptical" about MIS's information. Then MIS confused matters further by denying the whole thing.

Regrettably, however, I don't think MIS figure in this at all. They have nothing to fear from New Labour. The biggest threat to the intelligence services is a resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict, and a change of government will not affect the chances of that. New Labour are so cosy with the Unionists that a few MPs chatting with the dove end of Sinn Fein aren't going to make a difference.

McLaughlin was accidental, Dewar would have wanted to discuss the matter, if he had known about it. So either MIS didn't mention it, or they didn't know about it. Perhaps their agents were in the toilet at that moment.

London. Sometimes he has met MPs about issues unrelated to the Irish conflict. Sometimes he has been campaigning on behalf of wrongly-convicted prisoners. He was one of the first people in this country to raise the case of the Birmingham Six, something which has earned him a lot of criticism from those in Sinn Fein who argue that innocent prisoners should not be singled out for support.

**If they did tell Dewar that members of the IRA were taking tea in the Commons then MI5 were either very dim or very clever**

Trimble says he complained to Dewar that two members of the army council were inside the Palace of Westminster because "a former member of the Official IRA" had identified them. That is possible. After the big IRA split of the

1970s, the Officials became the Workers Party, then the Democratic Left, and they still hate Republicans as venomously as only former comrades can. But since they have absolutely no contact with the Republican Movement, there is no reason why they would have any clearer idea about the composition of the army council than anyone else does.

He is known to many Irish politicians, and has shown visiting Fianna Fail and Irish Labour Party MPs around on visits to London. I believe he has also made unattended trips to the toilet many times since an early age, little knowing that this would eventually cause uproar among Tory MPs.



Great food, shame about the attitude problem

SUNDAY: I'd almost forgotten how each economic boomlet turns some restaurateurs and harem into arrogant creeps...

Norman Scott case has people asking whether an old man suffering from Parkinson's disease should have his past raked over like this...

TUESDAY: The fire on the Shuttle sent me back to a book called An Accident Waiting To Happen...

MONDAY: A Channel 4 documentary about Jeremy Thorpe and the

tragedy are common... a fire would exert a powerful 'chimney' effect on ventilation...

The thing about the British middle classes is that, when they believe in something, they will work hard for no money

pected, and blast and fumes emerge into the tunnel proper, the fumes spreading through it at the mercy of whatever ventilation regime happens to prevail at the time...

WEDNESDAY: A glowing article in the Washington Post most glad-den Mr Major: It describes how

this country has become the surprise centre of Europe, how foreign investment is pouring in, how unemployment is crashing every day to new low levels...

THURSDAY: Cab drivers, notorious talkers, will usually do anything for extra cash, even poke fun at themselves...

FRIDAY: We've just started work on this year's community page, Peter Pan. One of the great unmarked phenomena of modern British life is the local pantomime, which is much more satisfying

their ordinary Amdram, since if you do Odnoma or Relatively Speaking, you're entirely in the hands of Rodgers and Hammerstein or Alan Ayckbourn...

But you can put whatever you like into a pantomime, tossing in plenty of local jokes and using the best local talent however you please...

Auditions are straight after Christmas, which is when people finally have some time to spare and feel a bit off-a-dogged end. After that they get the results work to get a bit of the thing about the British middle classes is that, when they really believe in something, whether it's stopping a new road or putting on a pantomime, they will work incredibly hard for no money at all...

SMALLWEED

THIS WEEKEND, I fear, will be roined by speculation about Tony Blair. Not for once about his hair, or even his views on taxation...

BUT PERHAPS it's unfair on Blair that he's got himself tagged in the psychological/psychiatric sector of life as Mr Ubiquity, a title which belongs to another. The most famous mouth to him but to Cary Cooper, industrial psychologist...

KEEP reading about the activities of Tory grandees. What's a grandee? The term arrives from the highest and most privileged class in notoriously smooty 18th century Castle, people of royal rank, or near it...

SHORT OF options for Christmas? You will no doubt be grateful as Smallweed for the latest brochure of ideas for Christmas published by the d-y house Wickes...

NO SOONER has the search been abandoned for the elderly lady in Hull who wouldn't claim her lottery money than another begins. Of 4,600 letters in response to the Government's nursery voucher scheme, just one supports it...

WE CAN'T, it appears, find £300 million to build a tunnel to take the A203 under Stonehenge. Yet it's still in order to build an utterly useless (even if pretty) we'll see millennium dome at Greenwich, London...

Paying up for trauma



Let's all sue for compensation. Hillsborough police did, even a bullied schoolboy did, so why shouldn't we all? Ian Walker believes it's our right, but fellow lawyer Martin Mears says our passion for suing has gone too far

Dear Martin,

IT COMES as a complete mystery to me why people are getting so exercised about the outcome of recent compensation cases reported in the media. It is somehow being seen as "creeping Americanisation" when, for example, police officers, whom I represented, are awarded damages for appalling psychological injury following the Hillsborough disaster...



of the individual can be seen to be protected and upheld. Yours sincerely, Ian J Walker Vice-president, Personal Injury Lawyers

Dear Ian,

I'M AFRAID your rhetoric rather gives the game away. "Appalling psychological injury" etc. It is that of the jury advocates with a poor case. "Creeping Americanisation", alas, is a reality. It means that we are moving towards a culture where there is no such thing as an unfortunate mishap...

harassed house officer in a busy casualty ward but by that of an experienced consultant working at leisure. During the summer I walked along the Cornish cliffs. Many of them are crumbling. Sooner or later someone will fall into the sea...

Dear Martin,

THANK YOU for your letter. I am not entirely sure what conclusion you reached, but I assume that you feel that in some way, the law should restrict the right of accident victims to obtain compensation. I, unlike you, see these people at first hand: the young woman disfigured and disabled through the neglect of her doctors; the police officer reduced to a mental wreck because no one gave her counselling after she had been shot and stabbed...

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE CAPLAN

ican system has "excesses". It would be interesting to know what you regard as an excess, since the arguments of American personal injury lawyers in defence of their racket are exactly the same as your own. If I fall over a cliff I shall regard it as my own silly fault. Yours sincerely, Martin Mears

Dear Martin,

THE POLICE officers who attended the scene of the appalling massacre at Hillsborough will be entitled to claim compensation only if they can show that someone (apart from the murderer) was negligent in allowing the tragedy to occur and that they could be classed as "rescuers" within the meaning of the law. They will not be entitled to claim damages simply because they have had to witness the aftermath of the carnage...

You confuse impassioned argument with rhetoric. I do not argue that any and every mishap should result in damages. What I do say, having witnessed the huge personal tragedy (hope there is no again) caused by negligent injury is that these claims form a vital part in the fabric of a caring society. Yours sincerely, Ian Walker

Dear Ian,

I ASKED where decisions of the Hillsborough type were leading. Your reply provides the answer: professional rescuers can claim damages from their employer (in effect the taxpayer) for dealing with the very misfortunes they are paid to confront, while the parents, family and friends of those actually killed or injured are entitled to nothing, or minimal levels of compensation.

Dear Ian,

"DISFIGURED and disabled", "shot and stabbed". Here we go again! All your rhetoric does not deal with the central issue: where are decisions of the Hillsborough type leading to? Wisely you ignore my reference to Dunblane. Should the police officers involved there have the right to take part in the damages bonanza? If not, why not? The law already restricts the right of accident victims to obtain compensation. It is not enough to show simply that you have been "reduced to a mental wreck" etc. You have to show that someone can be blamed for this. Until recently the English courts took a robust attitude. Rugby was assumed to be a rough game in which the participants accepted the risk of injury. No one thought of suing the referee. The idea that rescue workers should complain about "traumas" to be expected from the very nature of their work could have been thought absurd. No creeping Americanisation? Haven't we already reached the point where almost every mishap or disappointment is assumed to create "stress" with the necessity for the involvement of a "stress counsellor"? You acknowledge that the Amer-

LIFE'S A LOTTERY. When you buy a lottery ticket, you've a one in 14 million chance of winning the jackpot. The chances that you may experience some form of rheumatic disease are rather greater. Includes a form for 'Your FREE Information Pack'.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Retirement and other financial advice. Includes text about 'After a while tax arguments Labour's agenda for social and economic advance is outlining Tony B' and 'An Black'.



# After a week of tax arguments, Labour's agenda for social and economic advancement is outlined by Tony Blair



**N**O ONE can now doubt that the general election campaign is effectively under way. Having tried and failed to fight on the issue of the moral fabric of society, the Conservatives this week joined battle on the economy by alleging that a Labour government would result in massive hikes in taxation as a result of profligate spending.

The task for Labour between now and the election is not just to destroy that argument point by point but to put forward its own coherent economic case, showing how the Tories have failed and how Labour can build lasting prosperity.

The reaction to the launch of the Conservative Party's invented claims about Labour's tax and spending plans has ranged from the honesty of one Conservative spokesman who admitted that the operation did not work "actually", to the less polite derision from objective commentators.

This failure to convince is the result of four factors. First, Labour has changed the argument on taxation. We have rejected the idea that higher tax is an end in itself, but recognise that tax cannot be divorced from the state of the economy. High tax is not a virtuous symbol of the Left and we have rejected the intellectually lazy idea that whatever the levels of tax spend and borrowing under the Tories, they must automatically be higher under Labour.

Of course, Labour would like to give a higher priority to education and our health services. But there are many areas we would like to spend less on — health bureaucrats, the costs of unemployment and crime.

Second, as a result of our new

approach we have not made commitments to greater spending years before we are in a position to assess what the country can afford. In 1992 Labour was saddled with spending commitments made four years before the election. People were left not grateful for the benefit largesse that we promised to distribute, but scared about how we would pay for it. This time around, where we have made spending commitments we have shown exactly how they can be funded.

Third, we are more determined to counter every Tory lie, quickly and effectively. In the past we wrongly assumed that figures that obviously lacked any credibility would have no public impact, even if left unchallenged. This time we are taking no such chances. Each of the 89 claims of extra unfunded spending was destroyed by 3pm on the day they were made.

Fourth, and the overwhelming reason why the Conservative attack is less likely to hit home is the Tories' own credibility on taxation. Whatever the Chancellor does on Tuesday, people will be paying more tax at the time of the 1997 general election than in 1992. The Tories have put up taxes 22 times, at a cost to the typical family of £2,000 by the time of the next election. This has not been to fund generosity to those most in need; government spending is now skewed towards picking up the costs of economic failure, rather than investing for the future.

Our case is that neither state control nor unbridled laissez-faire can deliver economic success today. There are new dividing lines in the debate: between Labour which sees the route to competitiveness as investment in skills and technology, and the Conservatives

who are pursuing a doomed attempt to compete on the basis of a low-wage, low-skill economy.

Between Labour which sees fiscal prudence and stability as a necessary precondition for growth, and the Conservatives who have pursued a policy of boom and bust over the last 17 years.

Between Labour which sees an economic imperative in fighting growing inequality, and the Conservatives who do not.

Between Labour which sees positive engagement in Europe as fundamental to our economic success, and the Conservatives who talk more and more of withdrawal.

It was for a long time popular perception that Labour was the party of social policy, and the Conservatives the party of economic policy. In part the Left encouraged this view. Tony Crosland's *The Future of Socialism* argued that rapid economic growth and changes in the distribution of economic power meant that socialists should focus on distribution of the cake, not expansion of its size.

**T**HIS separation of economic and social policy is a dangerous fallacy. It is not just that our social aims depend on the success of an economic policy designed to benefit the many and not just the few, but also that the Conservatives have shown themselves to be monumentally incompetent and unjust in their management of the economy.

Seventeen years of Conservative government have left us ill-equipped for a new economic world of intense global competition. We are 42nd in the world skills league. We are 11th out of 15 for inflation, 11th out of 15 for interest rates which are now going up, 11th out of

15 for job creation, and our annual growth rate since 1979 has been the slowest of any major European country.

Our tests for Tuesday's budget are clear:

- We cannot compromise the need for macroeconomic stability. Low inflation and low interest rates combine to encourage investment that is the only route to lasting prosperity, and they require prudent management of public finances. We are committed to the "golden rule" — borrowing only to invest over the cycle.
- We must equip ourselves for the future by investing in the things that power growth — skills, technology, infrastructure, research — either by government action directly, through our proposed Individual Learning Accounts, or by using public-private partnerships to support investment.
- We must tackle inequality which is itself a major cause of slow growth. Moving people from welfare to work is an economic as well as a social priority. We have pledged to use the proceeds of a windfall levy on the excess profits of the privatised utilities to get 250,000 young people back to work. Combined with a national minimum wage, designed to make work pay, and our long-term tax objective of a new lower starting rate of tax at 15p or 10p to replace the Tories' objective of abolishing capital gains and inheritance tax at a cost of £4.6 billion, we can start to tackle the poverty traps the Tories have created.
- Finally, we want to see a new drive for fairness in government policy. If money is available for tax cuts, let it be used for the 15 or 10p rate, or to cut VAT on fuel. VAT was doubled in 1979 and extended

to fuel at 17.5 per cent (until Labour won a vote to cut it in 1994). If the Tories do not cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent, that policy will be in our election manifesto.

Labour's economic strategy is designed to do what is right for the country if we win power. But it is also designed to avoid the political mistakes that will be ruthlessly exploited if we make them.

Some people say that our approach is timid. I ask them: surely you cannot believe the Tories are spending £30 billion in the way it should be spent. We have always said that after the Tories' last budget, and in time for the election, we will set out any tax plans that we have.

The first rule of politics should be to promise only what you can deliver. We are committed to the minimum wage, constitutional reform (including House of Lords reform), replacement of the nursery voucher programme, supporting Europe and the social chapter, new targets for environmental improvement, replacement of the internal market in the NHS, crime prevention measures supported this week by the Audit Commission, and a housing programme led by the phased release of capital receipts. Is that not a vision worth fighting for? And does it not offer a new course for British politics?

Everything suggests that these are the dying days of a bankrupt regime. For more than a year, the whole of government business has been lying traps for Labour. They have nothing to say on the big issues that face us. Yet they are a formidable fighting machine. Our response has to be cunning as well as principled, effective as well as strikingly presented. That is what it will be.



Then and now... Terry Anderson in the ruins of Sabra-Chatila Palestinian refugee camp in southern Beirut, destroyed by Israeli air strikes in 1982, and, below, as he was in 1987 in a picture released by his captors

# Return to the lion's den



**How does it feel to confront the horror of places where you were held hostage for 2,454 days?**  
**Ian Black reports as Terry Anderson goes back to Beirut**

**T**ERRY Anderson has filled out since his hostage days. He has eaten well, evidently too well, to make up for nearly seven lost years at the pleasure of his Lebanese captors. "I am always struggling with my weight," he admits ruefully. "But otherwise I'm okay."

Squeezed into a smart two-piece suit, he looks fine and sounds confident, even polished, stopping over in London with the final cut of the film he has made to chase out the last of his demons. Going out on CNN next month, the fifth anniversary of his release, he looks at a Lebanon recovering from its nightmare years, as Anderson is from his own, in that fractured, dangerous land. "The lions are all tamed," he quips. "There are a few lurking around in the bushes, but nothing to worry about. They have other targets these days."

Anderson's long ordeal began on March 16, 1985, when gunmen bundled him into a car as he returned to his Beirut apartment after an early morning game of tennis. The Associated Press bureau chief, ex-marine and Vietnam vet was one of the first civilian victims of the vicious war between the West and Lebanon's fundamentalist Shi'ite Muslims — Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad, or whatever name they were using. And he was the last of the western hostages to be freed, in Damascus on December 4, 1991.

He talks matter-of-factly about the intervening 2,454 days — being beaten, blindfolded, chained like a dog and moved around from cellar to hovel, often muzzled in masking tape by the guards he still cannot quite bring himself to hate.

Going back now, Anderson explains, without any of the psycho-babble you might expect from someone coming to terms with

such a trauma, was the final test for him and Madeleine, the Lebanese wife who bore their daughter three months after he was kidnapped (he did not meet his child until she was six).

"In the past five years we've pretty well dealt with everything we had to deal with. But there was still this thing. And Lebanon is a part of my life. It's my wife's family, my daughter's heritage. So now I've gone back the block is gone, I can go back any time I want. It's not a problem any more. And you know, you always have to test things. What would it feel like talking to Hizbullah? I didn't know, I wanted to find out. And I did. And it was okay."

It was frightening though. Anderson had his first back-in-prison nightmare for ages a week before leaving for Beirut, but he knew what he wanted to do and it did not include confronting his tormentors directly: two years earlier he had accompanied a Vietnam veteran, a POW for six-and-a-half years, back to the infamous "Hanoi Hilton".

After that he wasn't interested in old prison cells and interviewing guards, though he could identify most of the places where he was held and he lingered outside the sinister Sheikh Abdullah barracks in Basalbek, then Hizbullah's headquarters and his home for two long stints.

He also knew the identities of some of those responsible — their leader, Imad Mughniyeh, still moves between Iran and Lebanon, a wanted and dangerous man — though he talks of his guards without rancour: "They were peculiar people... they wanted to be liked. Every time something bad would happen, they'd give somebody a beating, there'd be some punishment — you could count on it, later they'd be down with a plate of cookies or a Coke."

Yet he was curious and coura-

geous enough to want to interview Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbullah's spiritual leader and the man whose predecessors have been variously targeted by the CIA, blown up, or kidnapped by the Israelis. Nasrallah was polite but impassive, refusing to condemn hostage-taking or express even a smidgen of regret. Anderson, ever the professional journalist, smiles as he talks to the cleric on camera, but admits to feeling uneasy.

"He hasn't changed his mind; tactics perhaps, but not his opinions. It was a little bit uncomfortable because I don't agree with these people and I think that, should the circumstances arise, they're quite capable of doing it again. I don't think they will, because it's not useful to them any more. It was a seven-year-long lesson for everybody. This kind of thing doesn't work. Nobody gains from it, not even the kidnapers."

**"L**IKE everybody else in Lebanon they have stopped killing each other... that's a major step forward. But in some ways they haven't changed at all. It's that soft, smiling rigidity. They're not about. They're nice, gentle, and just as hard as a rock. It was a little strange, but that's okay. It was a long time ago."

Other hostages — Brian Keenan and Tom Sutherland in particular — have paid tribute to Anderson's strength: he was the hard-nosed newsman who inspired them, through prayer and sheer bloody-minded grit, to get through the endless days — though Keenan graphically describes the American once banging his head despairingly against a wall until it bled. And Anderson himself tells without emotion of shackling his

own leg, ironed, left undone by a careless guard, to avoid an otherwise inevitable beating.

That strength is impressively, movingly evident now in his ability to put it all behind him at the same time as acknowledging how the experience has become part of his life. It reminded me of the story that Eric Lomax tells in his best-selling book *The Railway Man*, a painful journey of reconciliation and forgiveness for the Japanese who imprisoned and tortured him on the death railway of Burma in the second world war, though it took Lomax — in an age when counselling was unheard of and POWs were deemed to have shirked the "real" action — most of the rest of his life to come to terms with what had happened.

Anderson was living with Madeleine and separated from his first wife and child when he was kidnapped, but family plays a central role in his post-hostage fortune. And he is busy, teaching journalism at Columbia University and active in the Vietnam Children's Fund, the Interfaith Alliance (a Christian group devoted to combating the religious right) and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

He has quit AP and no longer files copy daily, but still likes to tell a story. He lectures often to Americans who find the labyrinthine ways of the Middle East hard to negotiate and are confused by the duplicity of a government that sent a gun-ho marine lieutenant-colonel — Oliver North — to negotiate with what Anderson calls "rug merchants in Tehran" and then ensured Terry Waite in Mughniyeh's net. Anderson wants to improve the image of a land of bombings, fanaticism and brutality by showing the generosity, the *joie de vivre* and the beautiful women and landscapes that Lebanon boasts.

Yet the country of his ordeal

has not yet reached its happy end: the Palestinians at the centre of so many of his past travails are still suffering. His visit to Gaza, where a hundred covering refugees died in last April's Israeli offensive, was a bloody reminder that not all Lebanon's tragedies are of its own making. The "other targets" Anderson speaks of in his den of lions are down south these days.

Five years on, getting together with fellow members of the ex-hostages club still plays a part in his life, though he gives the impression that it may not continue that way. Waite, the least popular of them, by most accounts, "gave me the worst pub dinner I've ever had in my life," Anderson laughs. "We never talk about those days other than to joke about them. But we know each other very well. And we actually do like each other" — a pause — "mostly."

One lingering worry is what will happen if the kidnapers are ever brought to justice. "Should any of these gentlemen be arrested and brought to court I would, of course, be asked to testify along with other hostages. I probably would. I don't believe that the requirement laid on me to forgive my enemies means they should not be punished for what they did. But it's not anything I think about or would wish to be involved in at this point. I have a life."

It is apparently a happy and balanced one, proving that living well is the best revenge. "You begin to move on," Anderson says. "I'm still 'the former hostage' in the United States, and that's okay. I don't mind that. But I'm beginning to do other things. People are beginning to recognise that. One of these days that's going to be in the second 'graph, not the first."

**Eric Ambler**  
at the National Film Theatre  
Sunday November 24 2.30pm

Eric Ambler became famous for his novels between 1935 and 1940. After working in Hollywood he decided to leave the film world and return to Europe to resume writing. He will be talking about his career with The Observer's Philip French

**Bob Rafelson**  
at the National Film Theatre  
Sunday November 24 2.00pm

Having created the Monkees' film *Head* in 1968, Bob Rafelson went on to make *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens* with Jack Nicholson. Rafelson will be in discussion with Derek Malcolm about his latest film *Blood and Wine*.

The Guardian has five pairs of tickets to give away to each interview for the first readers to show this offer at the NFT Box Office, South Bank, London SE1 from 10.30am today and the Booth on the Square, Leicester Square from midday.

The Guardian interview

arts

Welcome to planet Simpson

Stuart Jeffries celebrates the arrival on British terrestrial television of an ugly, yellow, dysfunctional American family

ARGUABLY, the last thing the BBC should broadcast is The Simpsons. It's not just because the show hilariously laughs at the British, although that's annoying enough: when the show's dentist wants to scare kids into scrupulous dental care, he shows them pictures of the Royal Family Pictures of yellowing teeth in disease-ridden mouths. "You wanna wind up like these guys?" he asks. "Do you?"

It's not even because in showing The Simpsons the BBC is arguably becoming Rupert Murdoch's patsy. For years, his Fox Corporation, which makes the cartoon sitcom, would not sell The Simpsons to the BBC or ITV because he preferred to screen it on his own British satellite channel, Sky One, from 1990 onwards. Now Murdoch has given the BBC the rights to buy the first three series, while Sky soon starts showing the eighth series. But, because later episodes are more sophisticated (The Simpsons' No Disgrace Like Home, for instance, the episode with which the BBC starts its Simpsons broadcasting on Saturday is crude fare compared to the more recent shows), it's not difficult to work out Murdoch's strategy: he sustains the allure of Sky One (which has little other appeal, because it is rooted in comic failure, so much part of our broadcasting heritage, so embedded in British culture, that what we don't need is a lesson from the US in the one thing Britain knows better than anybody else).

No, the reason the BBC perhaps shouldn't show The Simpsons is because it is rooted in comic failure, so much part of our broadcasting heritage, so embedded in British culture, that what we don't need is a lesson from the US in the one thing Britain knows better than anybody else. Galton and Simpson made careers from aspirant comic characters who could not escape their ruts: Hancock, despite the Noel Coward smoking jacket and the intellectual pretensions, was doomed to remain baffled on the first page of Bertrand Russell. Harold Steptoe, for all his bourgeois dreams, was bound to live and work in a rag-and-bone yard. In Fawlty Towers, Basil would never succeed in freeing the hotel from riff-raff or eluding his wife's arrisive vulgarity. In John Sullivan's Only Fools And Horses, Del Boy Trotter could never pull the scam that would buy him a one-way ticket out of Peckham.

Homer Simpson, the father of the family that hits BBC1 on Saturday, is like all of these characters in that he is a ground-down anti-hero who is designed to be laughed at, hardly ever with. "OK, brain," he said when required to re-take his high school exams. "You don't like me and I don't like you. So let's get through this, and I can get back to killing you with beer." Even his paternal advice to his son Bart is revealingly hopeless: "Son, when participating in sports, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how drunk you get." This is the key difference between The Simpsons and that other US blue-collar sitcom, Roseanne: in the latter, for the most part, we laugh with the Conners, in sympathy with their adversity or in praise of their ingenuity.

Homer may suffer from radiation poisoning from working at Springfield's nuclear power plant, have his most intimate relationship with their adversity or in praise of their ingenuity. Homer may suffer from radiation poisoning from working at Springfield's nuclear power plant, have his most intimate relationship with their adversity or in praise of their ingenuity.



The world according to Bart

"Eat My Shorts" is Bart Simpson's most famous retort, a "Swivel On This" for 10-year-olds, if you will, while... "Fox Bart Simpson. Who the Hell are you?" is written on one of his T-shirts. These catchphrases capture the essence of the character whose name, as even the most Simpsonian underachiever will have recognized, is an anagram of Bart.

"Lunch time" is his favourite subject, and... "Acting immature" is his favourite hobby. For example... "Woolool All Right! School is cancelled! Molestand Video Arcade here I come." Bart also likes to make hoax phone calls to the drunks at Moe's Tavern, such as... "Anyone seen Mike Rotelf?" These hoaxes, like the opening sequence, supply a running gag for the show. Bart's other phone hoaxes include... "Hugh Jass?" "Why can't I find Amanda Hugginides?"

Recently, a book entitled The Simpsons Comic Extravaganza published Bart's Bottom 40 pet hates. Here are some of the lowlights: Vegetables that don't fly well off your spoon. Having nightmares that I'm a chip off the old block. Parents who have signatures that are really hard to forge. Cartoons with no fun violence and pain. The difficulty of loading water balloons with maple syrup. Cartoons with red-empting social messages.

out of fear of not being loved. "I'm not popular enough to be different," he says in an uncharacteristic burst of self-understanding. Or he advises Bart: "Never say anything unless you're sure everyone else feels exactly the same way." And so, like Roseanne, there is a double-edged celebration of blue collar US culture. Kwik-E-Mart, Monster Truck Racials and doughnut concessions jostle for attention, but in Springfield there is a total absence of early music festivals and not one decent German literature club. It's the flip side of the American Dream, about a society that has stopped dreaming, and instead takes succour in alcohol-fueled conformism or by wallowing in failure in a way alien to Hancock, Fawlty or Del Boy. Their feelings of shame, embarrassment or doom come from a culture ill-at-ease with itself; the Simpsons are rarely so insecure. "Underachiever and proud of it," was Bart's T-shirt slogan, and the shirt sold more than a million a week to US schoolkids at the end of the eighties. State schools banned it, but the slogan expressed a culture of cool anomie. Cool? Let's put it this way: Bart's first words were "Aggggh!"

No wonder The Simpsons is a cartoon, for it is in this form that Americans have contemplated the hilarity of failure: the rage that would smack Tom in the face whenever he rounded the corner in pursuit of Jerry; the 600ft drop that would open up below Coyote as he pursued Roadrunner over the cliff. The lingering double-take to camera, the rapid descent into covering reactions. No wonder, either, that George Bush rounded on the show in his 1992 election campaign. "We're going to keep on trying to strengthen the American family," Bush claimed. "To make the American family more like the Simpsons, and less like the Waltons." A scary way of devising social policy, whichever family you choose as the role model.

Bart retorted when the clip was shown during The Simpsons: "Hey, we're just like the Waltons. We're praying for an end to the Depression, too." When Dan Quayle visited a school during the 1992 election campaign and corrected a girl's spelling of the word "potato" by adding an "e", the Simpsons quickly satirised the former vice president. The show always starts with Bart being punished at school by having to write lines on

the class blackboard: "I will not yell." In a crowded classroom, a programme that is one cast safely predict, barely distinguishable in quality from the worst. One of the main virtues of The Simpsons, which makes the show singular among Murdoch products, is its subversiveness. The fact that the show is a cartoon helps in this. The Simpsons first appeared in 1987 on the Tracey Ullman Show as a "bumper" (a 15-second segment before a commercial break). This was a satirical skit during a show for adults, and creator Matt Groening maintains that the show, which premiered as a half-hour programme in January 1990, is still for adults. But this is not wholly convincing, because TV cartoons shows have always been ostensibly targeted at children. The Simpsons can readily be seen as a children's show, yet one that deals with such purportedly adult issues as government, conjugal infidelity, therapy ("I have some issues to do with my beloved another I mean mother," says Bart's school principal when spotted in the shrink's waiting room). It's here that the subversiveness is most controversial: some groups of American parents are uneasy about their children's exposure to

such issues, and also about the cult of Bart. The smoky, bald-headed, forever frozen in a 10-year-old brat with a serrated hairline to match his spiky I. It is not the designer's job to create tabloids; it is to make the audience gasp and applaud. TV is too realistic a medium for that. What is required is the feeling of "rightness", and that can best be achieved by design anonymity. What can the future hold for classic series? Imagine Emma dressed by Versace, or Madame Bovary costumed by Lacroix. How do you fancy Henry James seen through the eyes of Ralph Lauren or Tennessee Williams clothed by Calvin Klein? Costume drama is starting into the world. If the BBC design unit cannot be reinstated, at least someone at Television Centre should be laying down some pretty stringent guidelines before the "designed by..." banana gets under way.

SHOOTING STARS

JOHN FREDERICK LEWIS



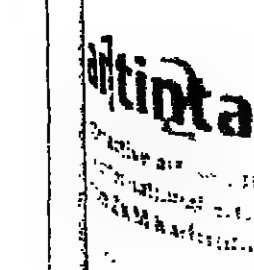
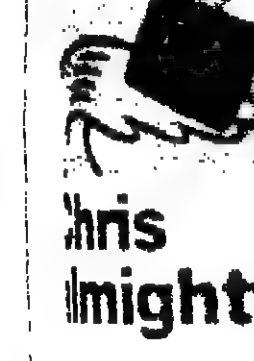
Up... Gainsborough? Yup, we know him. Constable? Mmm-hmm. But Victorian artist John Frederick Lewis? They love him in the Middle East — he liked to dress in Arab robes — but he's been overlooked over here. Up... In 1877, there are early rumblings of the heights to which Lewis's work will climb when his Lium Auratum sells for £27,500 at Christie's.

And away... This week, that same painting has been exchanged for a 1926.500 at Sotheby's, a watercolour record. Did a credit-card-toting shopper get confused in search of the 'John Lewis sale'?

FALLING: TIM RICE



Going... Way way back many centuries ago/ not long after the bible began, Tim Rice and his buddy Andy are coolfish. They enjoy musical triumph (Joseph) after musical triumph (Evita). Going... But the golden boys drift apart. And Tim is forced to write — for Disney! A Whole New World by Aladdin and Jasmine tops the charts, but inside, Tim is weeping. Gone... This week, his first ever smash returned to London. But critics united in the conviction that Tim's lyrics no longer cut the mustard. There is something curiously unconvincing about the idea that Jesus Christ is a Superstar at all. As for him being 'cool about his fate'...



Guardian Christmas Crackers Ex Libris A game for 4 to 8 players Produced in association with the British Library and the Bodleian Library this enormously enjoyable game will test your literary acumen and challenge your writing skills. A player picks a card on which is printed the title, author and plot summary of a novel and reads it out. Players then have to write a plausible opening line to the work. All entries and the correct answer are read out. The winner is the one who has most votes cast for their entry. A great Christmas present. £10.95 +99p p&p To order Ex Libris call free on 0500 600 102 quoting ref GD101. Alternatively please send / fax this coupon to our address below.

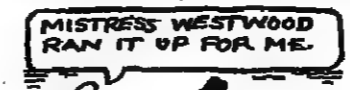
So the BBC is to axe its 60-year-old costume department. Fashion historian Colin McDowell cries foul

Dress to kill

Provocations

MEN BEHAVING badly is nothing new at the BBC. The latest example is the announcement last week that the costume department is to close with the loss of 117 jobs. Since 1994, it has made losses totalling £10 million. This is clearly a problem that needs to be addressed, but surely it would have been more sensible not to lose the expertise and knowledge gained by 60 years of experience but to have realised the budget and instituted more stringent controls.

what will be lost — not just authenticity and integrity but the creative humility that engenders them. And what is to take the costume department's place? Design teams headed by consultants — by the nature of their training, people geared to quick turnover and slick solutions. In contrast, a good costume designer thinks little of his ego and much of his brief. He spends time in libraries, visits costume museums and steps himself in plot and characters as well as a social period before he even picks up a pencil. This time to research is simply not allowed for in a commercial design situation.



who frequently bring their own background knowledge to an interpretation of the dress on the stage, whereas television drama is aimed at a wider and less culturally complete audience. And, television being a medium of record, authenticity is a vital part of literature on the box. Actors spend hours "feeling" a character in rehearsal — through a turn of the head to the way in which an item of clothing is worn. One of the blots on the success of Pride and Prejudice was Darcy's plunge into the pool. He didn't do it in Jane Austen and he wouldn't have done it in real life. It

was a gratuitous modern addition which had only one purpose — to let the millions of viewers enjoy seeing his shirt stick to his body. The moment was false, but the shirt — in cut, colour and bulk — was not. It is this integrity that the BBC is putting at risk. Freelance designers are like all others who live by their wits. Knowing that they are only as good as their last production and only likely to be invited back if they cut corners in order to remain within budget, they must jettison the minutiae of the perfectionist. Approximation supplants precision.

There is a further danger, already apparent in much that appears in the West End theatre. Flashiness becomes more highly valued than authenticity and that leads to a mannered perfection of the sort that weakened all of Cecil Beaton's productions and culminated in the vacuity of the Ascot scene in My Fair Lady which had all the authenticity of a fornicia wooden work surface. The moment "costumes designed by..." becomes the norm, the number of spectacular designs will increase, authentic designs plummet. There are no curtains to raise on TV. It is not the designer's job to create tabloids; it is to make the audience gasp and applaud. TV is too realistic a medium for that. What is required is the feeling of "rightness", and that can best be achieved by design anonymity. What can the future hold for classic series? Imagine Emma dressed by Versace, or Madame Bovary costumed by Lacroix. How do you fancy Henry James seen through the eyes of Ralph Lauren or Tennessee Williams clothed by Calvin Klein? Costume drama is starting into the world. If the BBC design unit cannot be reinstated, at least someone at Television Centre should be laying down some pretty stringent guidelines before the "designed by..." banana gets under way.

سكس من الاجل

CHANNEL SURFING STUART JEFFRIES

The rash in crash

IT'S LIKE Crash without the sex. And without the artistic integrity. And They Walked Away (Sky Sports 3) is a series made up of car crashes from various motor sports events. In the programme's closing montage, motorbikes collided and the two unseated riders tumbled over each other in slow motion so we saw exactly how they injured themselves. It cried out for nice ballet music. Then a long-nosed drag racer's front wheels took off and the disintegrating snout spun in mid-air as it exploded into a fireball. The chassis from another racer took off as it barrelled down the track, leaving the helmeted driver holding the steering wheel. The show closes on a freeze-frame of a car. But don't get too upset, guys: don't forget, they walked away.

Away's crashes make dull viewing. Unlike football matches, you know how these dramas are going to end - with a fireball and a stunned, smoke-blackened figure staggering back to the pits.

Yet watching the programme at home intensified its sleazy, cowardly nature. That's not entirely because the cheap synthesiser music, with its two moods - portentous and exuberant - echoed the typical soundtrack on the Adult Channel. But also because then you could study each crash with an obliging commentary. Two drag racers with flames coming from beneath the doors shot down the track, then something happened. "Forest loses traction, Forest loses control, Forest hits wall, Forest hits wall again - this time much harder," said commentator Steve Evans. But the interest for Evans was that, by hitting the wall, Forest disqualified himself from the race. Or at least that was his purported interest: the repeated slowed-down images indicated the drama of near death was more important.

Forest was the show's hero. He had had four crashes in the 1992 season. In one, at the Winston Drag Racing Finals in Panama, his car flipped and, as it slid upside down along the track, almost caught his opponent's tail. "It's just one of them things that happens," said Forest after he'd been pulled from the wreck. "We ain't out of this race. We got another car in the trailer."

"Had Sigmond Freud ever met John Forest he would have rewritten all his books before killing himself," said Evans. "Forest is a one off." Or at least the kind of hell-is-for-heroes nutcase without whom And They Walked Away would be impossible.

Cowardly? The programme puseyfooted around issues of physical vulnerability and horror, supplying us with repeated images of destruction, while falsely reassuring us that everything ends happily. There must be much filmed footage of crashes where drivers were mutilated or killed. I'm not advocating programmes made up of such footage. But They Didn't Walk Away, or They Died Screaming could be more honest depictions of what happens at the limits of human experience. The limits that both draw and repel us.

WAVE RIDING ANNE KARP

gillions more charm and wit. Nevertheless, Evans puts Chris Tarrant (Capital Radio) out of court. Tarrant has many admirers, but all I hear is Surrey Man, brittle beneath the bonhomie, with an aren't-I-wacky sense of humour. Top 40 music is interspersed with games like True Or False, a guessing quiz for which the only qualification is greed: listening to it is the equivalent of watching the Lottery. Tarrant's Birthday Bonanza is equally a matter of serendipity: all you need to win is to listen to Capital Radio and to have been born (all right, on a particular date). Capital Radio, the oldest and richest British commercial radio station, has bought itself an audience.

Chris almighty

WILL professional bad boy Chris Morris ever return to Radio 1? His last stint there in 1994 saw him suspended and threatened with law-suits; now Channel 4 has pulled his latest series. Yet neither outfit retreated because of Morris's real flaw - savaging the powerless as mercilessly as the powerful. An contrair, it's because he gets them into trouble with those in power: no animal was ever baited more adroitly than when Morris snared Conservative Central Office on Radio 1, and the painstaking way he extracted media darling Peter Stringfellow's seditious misogyny was a classic. For his radical entrapment of hypocrites, the fellow should be knighted. In reality, for the past 23 months he seemed more likely to be invited to dine chez Heseltine than return to Radio 1. Yet he's recently been discussing a possible future show with the network. Matthew Bannister now has a chance to show a boldness that no other radio station will. In comparison with Morris and the other radio Chrises are pallid. Despite Chris Evans's formidable zest, his Radio 1 show is increasingly self-referential: it plays with the conventions of breakfast programmes, but has zilch connection with the real world, and nothing to say about it. Evans is currently niggling away at the BBC for docking his company's daily fee by £1,400 since the show's start was brought forward half-an-hour. Buoyed up by his raucous "zoo" team, on radio he's a prankish, peppy adolescent trying to see how far he can push it. His TV show TFI Friday currently has

Tarrant, one of the best-paid, most sought-after DJs in the country, draws a weekly audience of over 1.8 million, the biggest of any breakfast show in London. But Capital's supremacy seems to be flagging. Last Monday it opened a radio café in Leicester Square, the first of a string - some say because other stations like Heart FM are nibbling at the London breakfast radio market. Next Friday the late Vival will metamorphose into a new tabloid station, Mohammed al-Fayed's 963 Liberty, no longer with women listeners chiefly in mind (whatever happened to his promise of performance: will the Radio Authority police it?), trying to tilt at Capital with such desirables as Simon Bates and Anthea Turner. In truth, today's breakfast shows differentiate themselves (if at all) by their playlists. Otherwise they're all scavenging the newspapers for similar "strange but true" stories.

Fergal Keane's new four-part series on national identity No Man Is An Island (Radio 4) began with an original, personal piece about the deadening influence of Irish nationalism on his school days. But next Monday's programme on Rwanda is something else. At once evocative and analytical, it traces the origins of the genocide and current refugee crisis back to the region's colonial past. With clarity and poignancy, Keane dispels racist notions of "tribal war" and returns us to the politics. Beautifully written and urgently spoken, this is a stunning talk which at last helps one understand: you won't hear better this year.

Can screen and stage work together to produce a new medium? Michael Billington applauds David Farr's adventurous attempt to marry them in Max Klapper - A Life In Pictures

Footage and footlights

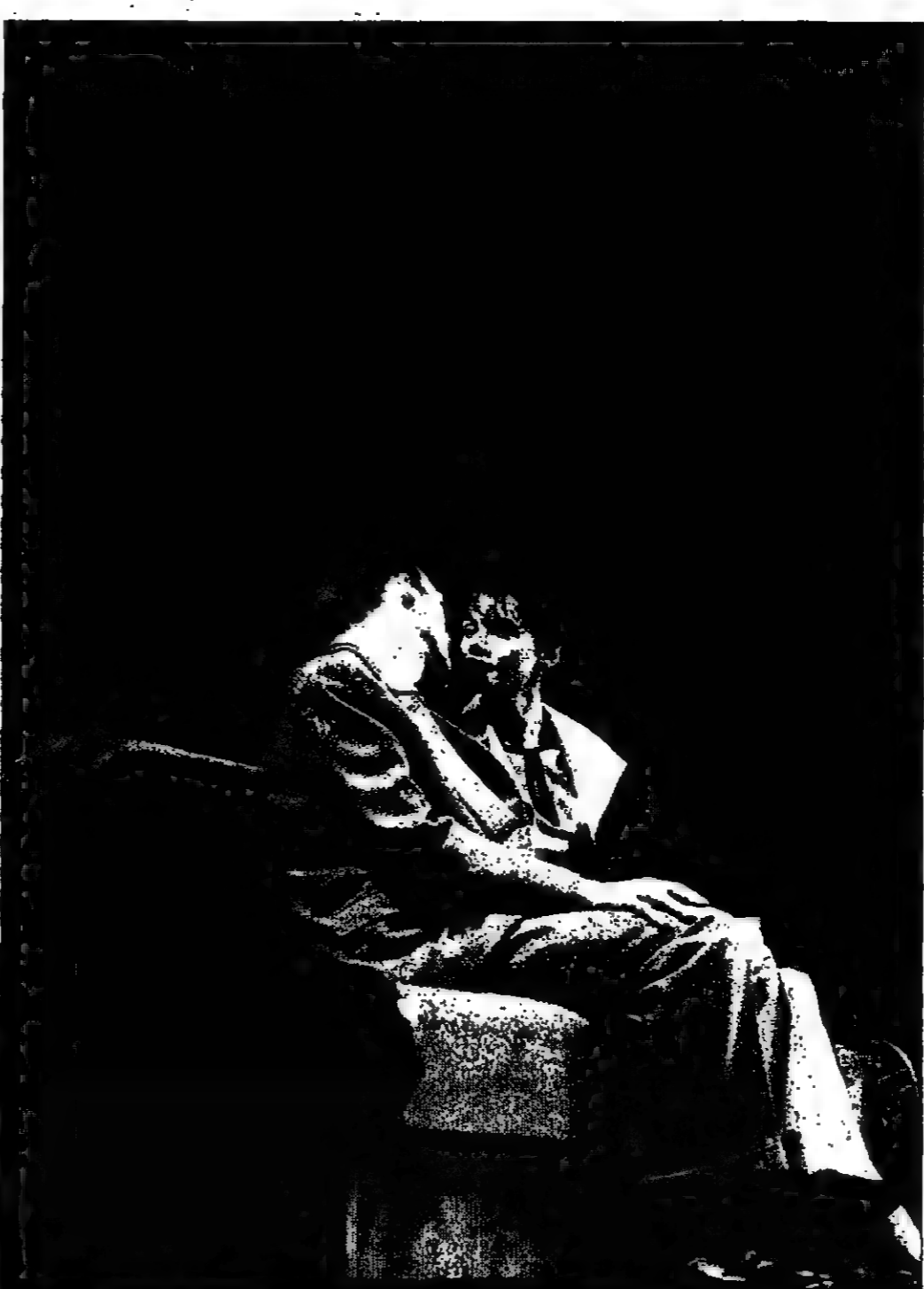
The experience

FILM and theatre: the two are normally seen as aesthetic enemies. But two weeks this week have shown the tantalising possibilities of interaction between them. David Farr's Max Klapper - A Life In Pictures, showing at the Electric Cinema, is described as "a play with film". And David Freeman's ENO production of Die Soldaten at the Coliseum uses film as a continuous commentary on the live action. This week you could go to the movies without leaving your theatre seat.

It is not, of course, a new idea. The Germans, in particular, have often tried to marry the two art-forms. As long ago as 1911 a Berlin revue was introduced by a light-hearted film sequence. The great director, Erwin Piscator, used film in 1927 in Tolter's Hoppla, Wir Lebend claiming it could depict the interaction between the individual and society. More recently, Peter Sellars has adapted the technique: his updated Merchant Of Venice used banks of TV monitors to give us close-ups of Shylock during the trial scene as well as footage of the LA riots.

But this week the idea of aesthetic intermarriage has been taken even further. Max Klapper is both a co-production between the Gate Theatre and British Screen and an attempt to interweave the narrative structures of theatre and film. Farr's story, with its echoes of Sumast Boulevard and Citizen Kane, is for a start about cinema itself. Max Klapper is a reclusive ex-director, now living in Cheshire, who made his last Hollywood picture in 1947 and who is sought out by a sleuthing Guardian journalist. We flash back in time to discover why his career was wrecked. We find that his final film, The Beautiful People, was both an attempt to recreate a doomed love affair of his youth and a mark of his inability to distinguish life and art in his quest for the perfect heroine he becomes an almost insane control-freak who finally has to kill the thing he loves.

On its own, it might be just another anti-Hollywood satire: a genre dating back to Kaufman and Hart's Once In A Lifetime. What gives it a multi-layered fascination is the use of film. Sometimes it is used sardonically as in the hilarious screen tests in which Max scours America for the perfect heroine. But it also deployed both to recreate The Beautiful People itself, a somewhat improbable forties flick



Max factor... Anthony Higgins (Klapper) and Emily Lloyd in a show that proves film and theatre don't need to be enemies

second and third fingers, while Emily Lloyd as his low-born discovery has a face that lights up on screen. It is a bizarre, fittingly impressive evening but one that shows film and theatre can be artistic partners rather than sworn enemies.

Farr uses film to explain his hero's psychology: Freeman in Zimmermann's opera, Die Soldaten, deploys it politically. Piscator justified the use of film on the grounds that "I need the means to show the interaction between the great human and supra-human factors and the individual or class." That is also Freeman's intention: the destruction of the opera's heroine, Marie, by male militaristic values is accompanied by shots of the Falklands, the Gulf war and even video computer games in

What gives this satire a layered fascination is the use of film

which toy men battle it out to the death. An individual tragedy is visually related to societal values.

But Freeman also uses film to heighten emotion: the climactic rape of Marie is seen in violent and hideous close-up in a way that makes it even more ugly and shocking. Sellars did something similar in The Merchant, showing how the camera could be used to redouble the effect of what was happening on stage.

To some people this will be anathema: a destruction of the sacred bond that exists between actor and audience. But, while I'm not advocating that every play or opera should have film footage or a video close-up, I still believe there is an unexplored potential here. Film, as we have seen this week, can both enhance live action and relate it to our society. Far from being the antithesis of theatre, it can also be its ally. Wouldn't we be crazy not to use it?

Max Klapper - A Life In Pictures at the Electric Cinema, Portobello Road, London (+44-171 420 0000); Die Soldaten at the London Coliseum (+44-171 632 8300).

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Looking for love

SERGEI Bodrov's Prisoner Of The Mountain won the International Critics' Jury prize at Cannes this year. The film, showing at the festival today, was made with difficulty in Kazakhstan and is about the Chechen conflict. It bases itself on Tolstoy's reflections on war and peace with humour as well as tragedy. An old Chechen man captures two Russian soldiers and takes them to his mountain village. He will either kill them or trade them for his son, held by the Russian army. "It is easier to kill a man than to love him," says Bodrov. "But we have love" is the film's theme. Today's breakfast shows differentiate themselves (if at all) by their playlists. Otherwise they're all scavenging the newspapers for similar "strange but true" stories.

The two women are attracted both to each other and the money. The film doesn't actually mean anything, but it's stylish, tightly directed, written with tongue-in-cheek veracity and well performed, especially by Gershon and Tilly, who make a very sexy couple.

Nancy Meckler, whose award-winning first feature Sister My Sister was barely seen in Britain, may have an easier time with Melissa Summer, the story of a gay dancer living with Aids. It is playwright Martin Sherman's first original screenplay and has more than a hint of the theatrical about it. But the striking performance from Jason Flemyng carries you forward. The plot, which has his friend and mentor dying of Aids and then an affair developing with Antony Sher's older man, is like that of an unorthodox soap. But Meckler creates a wonderful sense of a small company nearing the end of its tether and her actors reciprocate with an élan that makes sense of the message: where there's life there is hope.

DEREK MALCOLM

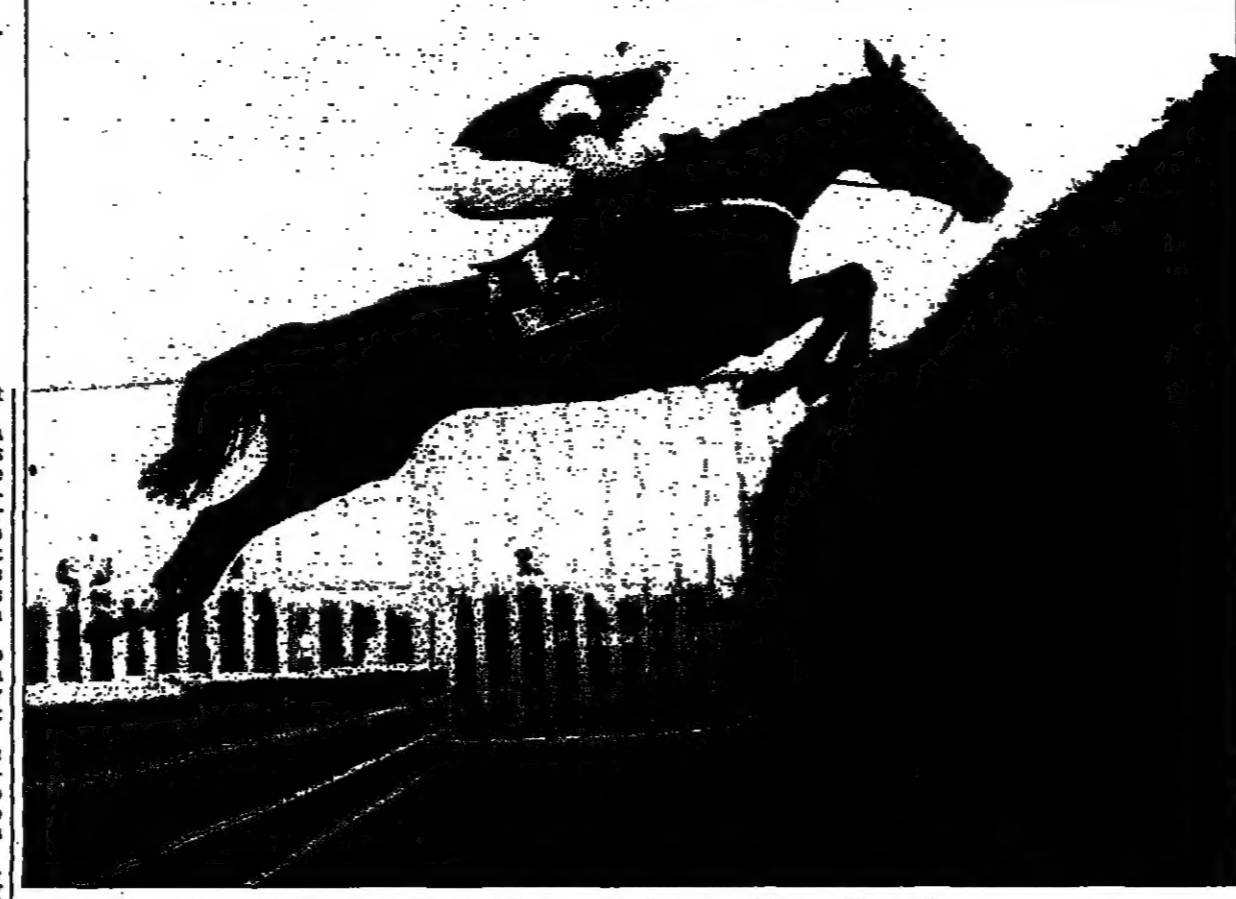
Advertisement for MEGASTORES featuring a large image of a woman in a headscarf and the text 'all you need is...' and 'and a gift from us to you'. Below the main image are four smaller images of CD-ROMs: Shirley Bassey, Robson & Jerome, Michael Crawford, and Annie & Oliver. The text at the bottom says 'Spend £25 now and we'll give you £25 worth of money off vouchers to spend after Christmas. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas and giving you an even happier New Year.' and 'all you need' with a phone number '011 251726'.



Racing

Hustler to home in at Aintree

Chris Hawkes
FIRM ground at Ascot declaimed yesterday's fields and has again caused a disappointing turnout today, although ten stand their ground in the day's main event, the First National Bank Gold Cup.



Spring time... Young Hustler shows the style that won him last year's Bechers Home Chase

advantage of the defection of both Castle Sweep and Large Action to win the Coopers & Lybrand Handicap at Ascot yesterday, scoring for the first time in over two and a half years.

Trompeur winner, is 8-11 with Coral to land the Japan Cup (run early tomorrow morning). Elie Lelouche, his trainer, believes he could be in better shape than before the Arc, although previous Arc winners Tony Bin, Carr Roll House and Urban Sea have all run badly in Tokyo.

Ascot with TV form

- 12.45 Stewards' Handicap
1.20 The Gold Cup
1.50 The Queen's Plate

Aintree with TV form

- 1.05 Stewards' Handicap
1.20 The Gold Cup
1.50 The Queen's Plate

Towcester

- 12.30 Stewards' Handicap
1.00 The Gold Cup
1.30 The Queen's Plate

Catterick

- 1.10 Stewards' Handicap
1.40 The Gold Cup
2.10 The Queen's Plate

1.40 BARNSTON & STOKTON TOWN HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
2. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
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2.10 NORTHUMBRIA NORTH HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
2. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
3. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...

2.40 CARRINGTON NORTH HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
2. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
3. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...

3.10 BUCKINGHAM NORTH HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
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3. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...

3.40 WOODHOUSE NORTH HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
2. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
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Market Rasen

- 12.10 Stewards' Handicap
1.00 The Gold Cup
1.30 The Queen's Plate

12.10 CARRINGTON NORTH HANDICAP

- 1. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...
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3. ABOUT BURNHAM (10) J. P. ...

12.40 CARRINGTON NORTH HANDICAP

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1.50 CARRINGTON NORTH HANDICAP

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2.25 CARRINGTON NORTH HANDICAP

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1.50 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...

Results

Towcester
1.00 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
1.30 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
1.50 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...

Results

Catterick
1.10 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
1.40 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
2.10 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...

Results

Ascot
12.45 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
1.20 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
1.50 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...

Results

Aintree
1.05 (2) 110yds (10) J. P. ...
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Soccer

World ban on Blinker stuns Wednesday

Russell Thomas

REGI BLINKER, Sheffield Wednesday's Dutch forward, has been suspended worldwide by Fifa with immediate effect over an alleged double signing and is now ruled out of today's Premiership game against Sunderland.

Wednesday were further angered when the FA immediately called on Fifa to consider lifting the ban until next Friday, only to see that rejected. Wednesday claim that two months before his move to England Blinker signed a document pledging his intent to sign for the Italian club when his Feyenoord contract expired in summer.

Wednesday's secretary Graham Mackrell said: "The suspension is totally unfair on Sheffield Wednesday... we are totally innocent, as are Feyenoord. This is a purely a matter between Regi and Udinese. There is no suggestion we have done anything wrong. We paid a transfer fee for Regi in the proper manner and international clearance was granted."

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup final: Rangers v Hearts

Rangers play monopoly

Patrick Glenn

IF HORSES for courses were the only criteria for forecasting tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final, Rangers would be a racing certainty to beat Hearts at Celtic Park.

of Aberdeen and Jim Hamilton of Dundee lead that list on five goals, with the Rangers pair Peter van Vossen (four) and Jorg Albertz (three) seeming to have the best chance of overtaking them.

Patric Wilson, a 19-year-old who's only first-team matches have been in the Champions League, could complete a remarkable treble by making his third outing in a cup final.

Stein returns to Stoke

THE Chelsea striker Mark Stein yesterday rejoined his former club Stoke on a month's loan and the midfielder Gavin Peacock joined Queens Park Rangers for a similar period.

completed his £1m transfer from Newcastle United to Coventry City. The 20-year-old striker signed a 2½-year contract for the Midlands club and is in the squad for today's home game against Aston Villa.

games by the Football Association for the incident that led to the Brentford captain Jamie Bates being taken to hospital with an oxygen mask over his face.



Deep view... 'The real revelation of a player is not in his social life but how he plays,' says Wenger

Beauty is any kind of goal against Spurs, says Wenger

David Lacey finds Arsenal's new manager approaching his first North London derby tomorrow with a Gallic shrug of confidence

"FOR me, beauty is efficiency," declared Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's recently appointed manager, as he approached his first North London derby.

Wenger looks over a winning Arsenal side six weeks ago and so far has seen them lose only once in seven games, 1-0 at Manchester United last Saturday.

None of this, not even the fact that two of his key players, the captain Tony Adams and Paul Merson, are both confirmed alcoholics, appears to have disturbed Wenger.

at the back, and pleased by how well the players have responded to coaching methods which had been foreign to them in more than one sense.

Team sheet

Chelsea v Newcastle: 2-0 (Mason has home debut for Chelsea. As does the Norwegian goalkeeper Grodzki, who the French winger Lescot is to replace after a groin strain. O'Brien is named as a substitute. England's captain, Steven Gerrard, is expected to return following his groin operation and will partner Griffith as left winger.)

Coventry v Aston Villa: Coventry include their new £1 million striker Mark Stein, who has been loaned from Chelsea. The squad Richardson faces a late test on a short tour to Telford (week) and Adkins (week) have been declared fit. Villa are expected to choose Jordan ahead of Muntari in the absence of their leading scorer Yorkie, who is on duty with Trinidad and Tobago. Sturton could return after recovering from a hamstring strain.

Leicester v Everton: The Leicester keeper Koller is with the United States and is replaced by Proke. Taylor is expected to start at the right-back position. The striker Steve Parker in midfield. Ferguson is likely to play on the bench for Everton, who have Manchester City recovered from the.

Liverpool v Wimbledon: The £5 million midfielder Collins is expected to get the vote over George as the striker for Fowler in attack. The team, who holds the Premiership record for consecutive appearances, 106 dating back to December 1924, will be reinforced with a new signing, winger, who has an ankle injury, so Koller is set to deputise.

Middlesbrough v Man Utd: Middlesbrough are without their injured captain Pearson and their non-playing manager Gary Smith as they attempt to fill the void since the late Diego Simeone and Gary Neville are expected to be recalled.

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Performance of the week: Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), superb against Manchester United in the Champions League on Wednesday.

A N Other

BETTER known now as a slightly acrobatic front-bencher with a sense of humour so dry it calls for a hospitable ban, this man of steel was a quick and aggressive winger before injury curtailed his playing career. He began with a midweek team before breathing the ozone among southern Saxons, but enjoyed only six years of league football. Later he had links with a memorable team party.

Last week: Lou Macari (Celtic, Manchester United).

Results

Rugby Union: World Cup Scotland Qualifiers: (Dunblair) Pool A Scotland 24, Tunisia 21; (Tunisia) Pool B Scotland 24, Tunisia 21; (Dunblair) Pool C Scotland 24, Tunisia 21; (Tunisia) Pool D Scotland 24, Tunisia 21.

Football: Chelsea 2-0 Newcastle; Coventry 1-0 Aston Villa; Leicester 1-0 Everton; Liverpool 1-0 Wimbledon; Middlesbrough 1-0 Man Utd.

Cricket: Sri Lanka 2-0 India; Sri Lanka 2-0 India; Sri Lanka 2-0 India.

Table Tennis: French Open Championships; French Open Championships; French Open Championships.

Tuffley test a samba striker

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

THESE Brazilians, like Copacabana and they get everywhere. While Bryan Robson grapples with how best to cope with Emerson's problems, Doug Foxwell, manager of Tuffley Rovers, is deciding what to do with Neto.

AS THE globe-trotting Terry Venables starts his own Aussie soap called Home and Away, he will be more than aware of the fight that lies ahead to guide the Soccerex to qualification for the 1998 World Cup finals.

WHEN John Lennon said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus he sparked an international outcry. So goodness knows what the reaction in Melbourne is going to be after David Hill, the head of the Australian Football League, has announced a new boss, said the "Soccer is the number one participation sport in Australia, particularly in Melbourne where it is bigger than the church."

AFTER all the years of uncertainty over the future of their ground, after all the public inquiries, Fulham were recently given Department of the Environment approval to go ahead and redevelop Craven Cottage.

Step forward Lady Barclay, the very same person who told the public inquiry that Fulham's Development would interfere with the wildlife along the riverbank even though most people could see only rusty old bikes and shopping trolleys.





New man at Twickenham Adebayo's mission on the wing 20



Wenger's derby day What Spurs can expect from Arsenal 22

RUGBY UNION

England's year of living disastrously

After 12 months of strife Twickenham's curtain rises again today. Frank Keating hears famous voices of hope and despair

EXACTLY a year and a week ago, on a sunny Saturday, the RFU unveiled its swish new amphitheatre Twickenham as well as its pristine England XV to play the world champions South Africa in the historic first international match of the professional era.

terday, "horrendous, ridiculous, an utter nightmare". Barry John, one of the greatest players these islands have ever produced, concurs with his British Lions colleague. "It has been so fretful as to be utterly tragic," he says. "It has been 12 months of sheer waste."

to come to their senses." John and Hiller both rue the wasted 12 months. "Professionalism should have been announced with trumpets — and then aborted for at least a year," says John. "The players were nearly all working men. They needed time to chew over and weigh up the pros and cons."



Golden promise... the England squad do line-out drills at Bisham

TOM JENNINGS

Misleading signals on the northern line



David Lacey

EGIL OLSEN has been at it again this week. Previously the gumbooted socialist philosopher who coaches Norway, he has returned to his old ways, criticising the England team for outmoded tactics. Now he insists that the Premiership is not all it is cracked up to be.

pool, Aston Villa and Blackburn, the case presented by Olsen is surely unanswerable. It should be remembered, however, that Olsen is a disciple of Charles Hughes, the Football Association's coaching guru whose belief in the direct approach, his critics would argue, did much to trap the English game in a long-ball straitjacket. Both Hughes and Olsen would deny that they are long-ball devotees but, since one of Olsen's more successful Norway teams based its approach on high passes aimed at the head of Jostein Flo, it might be difficult to dispute his latest condemnations.

Advertisement for Damon Hill video: On the WHSmith video, Damon Hill takes an extra 14 minutes to finish. Features Damon Hill interview only available at WHSmith. DAMON HILL THE FIGHT FOR VICTORY. WHatever they're into, get into WHSmith.

Cork out of Zimbabwe tour. DOMINIC CORK yesterday pulled out of England's cricket tour to Zimbabwe, citing personal problems. The 25-year-old Derbyshire all-rounder recently split up with his wife.

Guardian Crossword 20,818. A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Includes crossword grid and clues.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Tragedy', 'Teenage', and 'They'.